



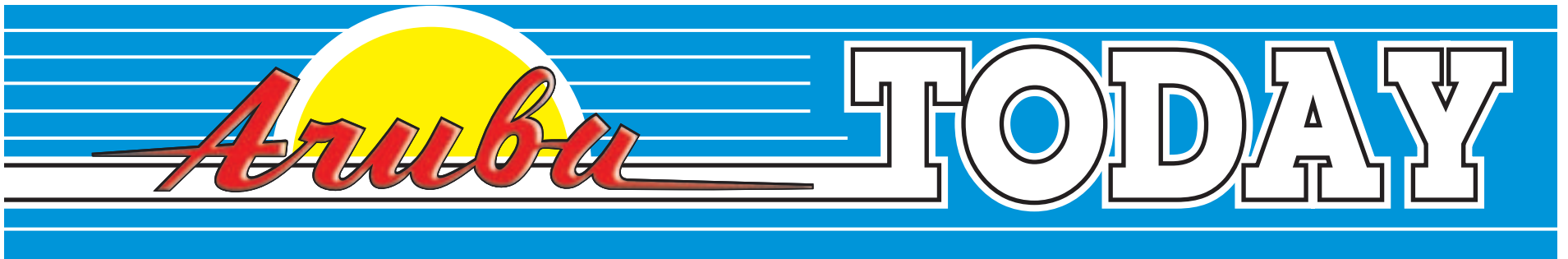
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On Top Of The News Email: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) website: [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com) Tel: +297 582-7800 Thursday, April 24, 2014



## Obama offering Japan security, economic assurances

President Barack Obama and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands before having dinner at Sukiyabashi Jiro sushi restaurant in Tokyo, Wednesday, April 23, 2014. Obama begins a four-country trip through the Asia-Pacific region.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

**JULIE PACE**  
**AP White House Correspondent**

**TOKYO (AP)** — Facing fresh questions about his commitment to Asia, President Barack Obama will seek to convince Japan's lead-

ers Thursday that he can deliver on his security and economic pledges, even as the crisis in Ukraine demands U.S. attention and resources elsewhere. The ominous standoff between Ukraine and Russia is

threatening to overshadow Obama's four-country Asia swing that began Wednesday. He may decide during the trip whether to levy new economic sanctions on Moscow, a step that would signal the failure of an inter-

national agreement aimed at defusing the crisis. But at least publicly, Obama will try to keep the focus on his Asia agenda, which includes reaffirming his commitment to a defense treaty with Ja-

pan, making progress on a stalled trans-Pacific trade agreement and finalizing a deal to modestly increase the American military footprint in the Philippines.

**Continued on page 3**



## AP: Russian social media CEO quits, flees country

**LAURA MILLS**  
**Associated Press**

**MOSCOW (AP) —** The founder of Russia's leading social media network — a wunderkind often described as Russia's Mark Zuckerberg — has left his post as CEO and fled the country as cronies of President Vladimir Putin have made steady inroads into the company's ownership.

The slow-motion ouster of Pavel Durov from the network known as VKontakte, or "In Contact," is the latest sign that independent media outlets in Russia have become increasingly imperiled.

Although months in the making, the loss of Durov's leadership in VKontakte means that the space for free speech on the Russian web could shrink even further. Users on VKontakte were even spreading jokes this week that the new nickname for the "In Contact" website should be "In Censorship."

As one of his final acts of defiance, Durov posted online last week what he said were documents from the security services, demanding personal details from 39 Ukraine-linked groups on VKontakte, also known as VK. Kremlin pressure on VK has been accompanied by increasing enforcement of Russia's law against extremism, which took some prominent opposition and pro-Ukraine sites off the web in March.

On Tuesday, the Russian parliament passed a law requiring social media websites to keep their servers in Russia and save all information about their users for at least half a year. The same law, which will go into effect in August if signed by Putin, gave bloggers the same legal status — and responsibilities — as media outlets, making them more vulnerable to accusations of libel or extremism.

Since the protests began in Ukraine, Putin and much of Russian media have amplified the patriotic rhetoric, proclaiming the need to secure Russia from enemies both foreign and domestic. In a televised call-in show last week, Putin equated those critical of Kremlin policy in Ukraine with Bolshevik revolutionaries who rooted for Russia's defeat in World War I, and discussions about the country's traitorous Fifth Column have become the fare of state television.

VK, which largely resembles an older version of Facebook, attracts about 60 million users daily, primarily from countries in the former Soviet Union, vastly outstripping Facebook's reach in the region. It played an instrumental role in bringing hundreds of thousands of protesters into the streets in late 2011 in the wake of widely manipulated parliamentary elections, and it has played a part in drawing crowds to the Kiev protest movement that helped oust Ukraine's pro-Russian president in February.

"There's been a trend that started with the protests of December 2011, when the authorities started fearing the crowd and especially the online crowd," said Anton Nossik, Russia's leading Internet entrepreneur. "The pressure of censorship is mounting on Russian websites from lawmakers who think that the Internet is their foe." Durov's exit from the company was drawn out and chaotic. After selling his shares in January, Durov posted a message April 1 that he was quitting the company — only to say two days later it had been an April Fool's joke.

On Tuesday, he said he had been fired from the company and only found out through the media. One of the pro-Kremlin stakeholders claimed Durov had signed his own resignation letter a month ago and never withdrew it, while another insisted that Durov had no right to quit. □

## Vote stalled on Trade Center tower

**MARC SANTORA**  
**CHARLES V. BAGLI**  
**© 2014 New York Times**

**NEW YORK** - After failing to gain enough support to provide additional subsidies to complete the stalled construction of a \$2.3 billion, 80-story tower at the site of the former World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey decided on Wednesday to once again delay a decision on the matter.

The postponement of the vote for a second time un-

on Wednesday that there was sharp disagreement among board members.

For critics of the deal, their concerns are about more than just the financial soundness of the project and the fate of the building, which rose eight stories before construction was stopped.

They also reflect the shadow that has been cast by the controversy in September involving the politically motivated closing of several access lanes to the George Washington Bridge, which is operated

portation infrastructure critical to both New York and New Jersey.

Several board members noted the changed climate during the meeting, saying that the debate represented an extraordinary public airing of contrary views in an agency known for its secrecy.

Though there is wide agreement that the tower - 3 World Trade Center - should one day rise, the questions are who pays for it and who bears the risk.

This week, a committee of the board of directors



**People walk past the entrance to 4 World Trade Center, with 1 World Trade Center, rear, in New York. The Port Authority board's failure to agree on additional financing to finish stalled construction on 3 World Trade Center reflects a wider debate on whether it has strayed too far from its core mission of managing transportation infrastructure critical to both New York and New Jersey. (Karsten Moran/The New York Times)**

derscores a fierce debate within the Port Authority, not only about granting more public support for the project, but also about the overall role the Port Authority should play.

While the negotiations are continuing, it became clear after the meeting

by the Port Authority. The resulting scandal and investigations have led to intense scrutiny of the Port Authority and raised questions about whether the powerful and insular agency has strayed too far from its founding mission: managing and operating trans-

brought in a group of outsiders to offer their thoughts on the authority, and it turned into something of a public shaming as they took turns scolding the authority's leaders for having allowed it to devolve into a patronage mill and a piggy bank for pet projects. □

## Venezuela:

### American arrested on murder charges

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) —** A U.S. citizen has been arrested in Venezuela on attempted murder and weapons charges after he allegedly shot another man, authorities said Wednesday.

Venezuela's Supreme Court said Todd Michael Leininger was arrested af-

ter a raid on his house in the Western border state of Tachira. The statement said he shot and wounded a man identified as Jorge Santos Sandoval.

A number of firearms were found at the house but authorities provided no other details except to say that two women were also ar-

rested as part of the investigation.

Tachira Gov. Jose Vielma Mora said Leininger is 32 and has been in Venezuela for two months. The governor said two handguns and three rifles, including one with a silencer and telescopic sight, were found at Leininger's house. □



# Obama offering Japan security, economic assurances



U.S. President Barack Obama waves on his arrival at Sukiabashi Jiro sushi restaurant for dinner with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Ginza shopping district in Tokyo, Wednesday, April 23, 2014.

(AP Photo/Shuji Kajiyama)

## Continued from Front

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he and Obama had a long talk at a private dinner Wednesday evening and looked forward to a fruitful meeting Thursday "so that we can jointly send a message to the rest of the world that the Japan-U.S. alliance is unshakeable and strong."

Obama opened the first state visit by an American president to Japan in nearly 20 years with the dinner at Tokyo's famed sushi restaurant Sukiabashi Jiro. The restaurant is run by 88-year-old Jiro Ono, whose meticulous technique was detailed in the 2011 documentary "Jiro Dreams of Sushi."

Abe told reporters Obama praised the meal as "the best sushi he had had in his life."

On Thursday, Obama will meet with Japanese Emperor Akihito, have a news conference with Abe and attend a banquet at the Imperial Palace. He also plans to visit the Meiji Shrine, which honors the emperor whose reign saw Japan emerge from over two centuries of isolation to become a world power. Obama's stops in Japan, South Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines serve

as something of a do-over after he canceled a visit to Asia last fall because of the U.S. government shutdown. The cancellation provided fresh fodder for those in the region who worry that the White House's much-hyped pivot to Asia is continually taking a backseat to other foreign and domestic priorities.

"I think the president will want to make clear that this commitment will be unaffected by developments in Ukraine and other global events," said Jeffrey Bader, Obama's former Asia director. "Countries want to hear that the U.S. presence is in fact steady and strong as China rises."

While China is not on Obama's eight-day itinerary, leaders in Beijing will be closely watching the president's tour. Obama's advisers insist the trip — and the White House's broader Asia policy — is not designed counter to China's growing power, and they say the president is not asking Asian nations to choose between allegiance to Washington or Beijing.

Still, Obama faces a particularly tricky balance in Tokyo, which is locked in a tense territorial dispute with China over islands Japan oversees in the East China Sea. The U.S. has a defense

treaty requiring it to come to Japan's defense if it is attacked, and Obama is expected to reaffirm his commitment to that agreement. Ahead of his arrival, he told a Japanese newspaper that the treaty does apply to the island disputes and he opposes "unilateral attempts to undermine Japan's administration of these islands."

"Disputes need to be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy, not intimidation and coercion," Obama said in a written response to questions from Japan's Yomiuri newspaper.

A Chinese government spokesman responded that China has "indisputable sovereignty" over the islands and that "the so-

called Japan-U.S. alliance" should not harm China's territorial rights.

"The U.S. should respect facts, take a responsible attitude, remain committed to not taking sides on territory and sovereignty issues, speak and act cautiously and earnestly play a constructive role in regional peace and stability," Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said.

On the economic front, Obama is unlikely to have much new to show for efforts to deepen trade ties with Asia. Negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a twelve-nation free trade pact, are stalled, particularly discussions between the U.S. and Japan over tariffs on agriculture and automobiles. □

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# US weighs clemency for inmates jailed for 10 years

ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Obama administration is encouraging many non-violent federal prisoners to apply for early release — and expecting thousands to take up the offer. It's an effort to deal with high costs and overcrowding in prisons, and also a matter of fairness, the U.S. government says.

On Wednesday, the Justice Department unveiled a revamped clemency process directed primarily at low-level felons imprisoned for at least 10 years who have clean records while in custody. The effort is part of a broader administration push to scale back harsh penalties in some drug-related prosecutions and to address sentencing

disparities arising from the 1980s crack cocaine epidemic that yielded disproportionately tough punishment for black drug offenders.

"These older, stringent punishments that are out of line with sentences imposed under today's laws erode people's confidence in our criminal justice system," said Deputy Attorney General James Cole in laying out new criteria that will be used in evaluating clemency petitions for possible recommendation for the president's approval.

Though the criteria apply solely to federal inmates, states, too are grappling with severe prison overcrowding. In Nebraska, for example, prisons were at 155 percent of capacity at the end of March. And in



Deputy Attorney General James Cole holds up a list of guidelines during a news conference at the Justice Department in Washington, Wednesday, April 23, 2014. Cole announced the new standards that will be considered in deciding whether to recommend clemency for certain non-violent drug prisoners. Wednesday's announcement is part of an ongoing effort to trim the nation's prison population and help convicts who were given what the Obama administration says were unduly harsh sentences for drug crimes.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

California, courts have ordered the state to reduce the inmate population to 137.5 percent of designed capacity, or 112,164 inmates in the 34 facilities, by February 2016.

The White House, sometimes criticized as too stingy with its clemency power, says it's seeking more candidates for leniency in an overcrowded federal prison system whose costs comprise a sizable percentage of the Justice Department's budget.

The system's population has rocketed in recent decades, creating rising multibillion-dollar expenses that officials say threaten other law enforcement priorities and that an inspector general's report last year characterized as a "growing crisis."

The United States incarcerates about a quarter of the world's prisoners. Of the roughly 216,000 inmates in federal custody, nearly half are imprisoned for drug-related crimes.

But officials say now's the time to consider releasing more prisoners early.

"These defendants were properly held accountable for their criminal conduct. However, some of them, simply because of the operation of sentencing laws on the books at the time, received substantial sentences that are dispropor-

tionate to what they would receive today," Cole said. Officials say they don't know how many of the tens of thousands of drug-related convicts would be eligible for early release, but an ideal candidate would meet six criteria — including no history of violence, no ties to criminal organizations or gangs and a clean prison record. He must also have already served 10 years or more of his sentence and be likely to have received a substantially shorter offense if convicted of the same offense today.

The Bureau of Prisons will notify all inmates of the criteria next week and provide electronic surveys to those who think they deserve clemency.

The Justice Department expects the vast majority of applicants to be drug prisoners but didn't foreclose the possibility that inmates convicted of other crimes — financial fraud, for example — could be considered.

"It's really a coming together of decades of excessive sentencing, particularly in drug cases, combined with attention to the underused power of commutation," said Marc Mauer, executive director of the Sentencing Project, an organization that works on sentencing policies. □

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# Records: Man shot in court had vowed to behave

**BRADY McCOMBS**

**Associated Press**

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)** — A Tongan Crip gang defendant who was fatally shot by a U.S. marshal while attacking a witness during a federal court trial had promised a judge earlier that he would behave, a court transcript shows. The vow came at the beginning of the trial on Monday, when an attorney for defendant Siale Angilau asked the judge if she could help get Angilau moved back to his normal prison cell.

Lawyer Michael Langford told U.S. District Judge Tena Campbell that Angilau hadn't had a shower, didn't have access to his legal papers and wasn't in "the best of moods," the transcript shows.

Campbell spoke with U.S. marshals and arranged for a possible transfer before asking: "You'll be on your best behavior, right, Mr. Angilau?" The 25-year-old Angilau responded: "Yeah." A short time later, while the first witness was testifying about gang recruiting, an unknown person



**This photo shows Siale Angilau. A U.S. marshal shot and critically wounded Angilau on Monday, April 21, 2014, in a new federal courthouse after Angilau rushed the witness stand with a pen at his trial in Salt Lake City, authorities said.**

(AP Photo/Utah Department of Corrections)

said, "Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa," the transcript states.

At that point, "the defen-

dant attacked the witness and the trial was terminated," the document states.

Authorities said Angilau

tried to strike witness Vaiola Tenifa — a member of the same Tongan Crip gang as Angilau — with a pen before a U.S. marshal fired several shots, hitting Angilau in the chest. He died later at a hospital.

The details of the transcript were first reported by The Salt Lake Tribune.

Angilau was one of 17 people named in a 2010 indictment accusing Tongan Crip members of assault, conspiracy, robbery and weapons offenses. He was the last defendant in the case to stand trial, with previous defendants being sentenced to 10 to 30 years in prison.

About 30 minutes after the shooting, Judge Campbell brought the attorneys back into the courtroom and declared a mistrial. □

## Death row case putting Oklahoma in legal bind

**SEAN MURPHY**

**Associated Press**

**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)** —

Two death row inmates who want to know the source of drugs that will be used to execute them have placed Oklahoma's two highest courts at odds and prompted calls for impeaching justices on the Oklahoma Supreme Court. The inmates and their lawyers have succeeded where others have failed: using questions about drug secrecy to — at least temporarily — shut down Oklahoma's death chamber.

While courts in Missouri and Texas have rejected claims that secretive death-row procedures could expose inmates to painful executions, Oklahoma inmates Clayton Lockett and Charles Warner benefited simply by asking the question in a civil court, not a criminal one.

The state's high court delayed the inmates' execution Monday even though the judges are restricted to ruling on civil matters. The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals, which handles cases from inmates, said it wasn't authorized to weigh in on the request for a stay because the inmates challenged the execution procedures in civil court, not criminal.

Gov. Mary Fallin has halted at least one inmate's execution to ensure he won't

be put to death before his day in court, but believes the Supreme Court went too far in issuing the stay. Republican Attorney General Scott Pruitt has declared the state is in the midst of a "constitutional crisis." And the justices so provoked some in the Republican-controlled Legislature that one member ordered articles of impeachment be drafted for the five justices in the majority, saying Wednesday they violated their oaths of office and engaged in a "willful neglect of duty."

In the majority opinion, the justices said they feared Lockett and Warner could die despite a lower court finding that they were entitled to know who made the lethal three-drug cocktail. "As uncomfortable as this matter makes us, we refuse to violate our oaths and to leave appellants with no access to the courts, their constitutionally guaranteed measure," the justices wrote.

Former state trooper and current Republican Rep. Mike Christian set the wheels in motion on the articles of impeachment for the justices in the majority. The resolution seeking the impeachment of the justices, even if it were granted a hearing, would have no immediate impact on the proceedings in the inmates' lawsuit. □

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## NYPD Twitter campaign backfires

JAKE PEARSON  
TOM HAYS  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The largest police department in the U.S. learned the hard way that there are legions online devoted to short-circuiting even the best-intentioned public relations campaign — in this case, the NYPD's Twitter invitation to people to post feel-good photos of themselves posing with New York's Fin-

force.

"When you're in the social space, it's tough to predict what's going to happen," said Glen Gilmore, who teaches social media marketing at Rutgers University. A similar meltdown came last November when investment giant JP Morgan Chase, which had been paying billions in fines stemming from the financial crisis, asked followers on Twitter to post career advice

counter criticism that it has been trampling on people's civil rights. Last week, it disbanded an intelligence unit that spied on Muslim neighborhoods, and it has promised to reforms to the crime-fighting tactic known as stop and frisk. Bratton acknowledged Wednesday that the Twitter campaign may not have been fully thought through. "Was that particular reaction from the some of the

## Soldier convicted in WikiLeaks case gets new feminine name

JOHN MILBURN  
Associated Press

**LEAVENWORTH, Kansas (AP)** — An Army private convicted of providing classified documents to WikiLeaks won an initial victory Wednesday toward living as a woman when a Kansas judge granted a petition to change her name to Chelsea Elizabeth Manning. The decision clears the way for official changes to Manning's military records, but does not compel the military to treat the soldier previously known as Bradley Edward Manning as a woman. That includes not being moved from the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, where Manning is serving a 35-year prison sentence, to a prison with a women's unit, or receiving the counseling and hormone treatment she seeks.

Manning wasn't present at the hearing before Leavenworth County District Judge David King, which lasted just about a minute, but issued a statement after the ruling calling it "an exciting day."

"Hopefully today's name change, while so meaningful to me personally, can also raise awareness of the fact that we (transgender) people exist everywhere in America today, and that we must jump through hurdles every day just for being who we are," Manning said. Army spokesman George Wright said the only impact of the district court ruling was changing Manning's name on military records, but not the soldier's confinement status.

"Likewise, the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks is a male-only facility and prisoners there are referred to by the title 'inmate'," Wright said in a statement to The Associated Press. Manning has been diagnosed by at least two Army behavioral health specialists with gender dysphoria, or gender identity disorder. She filed the court petition as the first step toward getting her Army records changed. The former intelligence analyst was sentenced in August for six Espionage Act violations and 14 other offenses for giving the anti-secrecy website more than 700,000 secret military and U.S. State Department documents, along with battlefield video, while working in Iraq in 2009 and 2010. An Army general upheld the convictions last week, clearing the way for an automatic appeal at the Army Court of Criminal Appeals. There was no Army opposition filed to the name-change petition, with which Manning included several newspaper reports indicating the desire to live publicly as a woman last August, as well as copy of an Oklahoma birth certificate.

Manning has filed a grievance with the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks commander at Fort Leavenworth over the lack of a response to her request for comprehensive treatment for her gender identity disorder, including specialized gender counseling and hormone replacement therapy. Emma Cape, a member of the Chelsea Manning Support Network, said in an email to The Associated Press that Manning was told several months ago that a medical plan of treatment had been developed, but it had yet to be implemented or discussed with Manning. □



This frame grab from a Twitter post from @OccupyWallStNYC shows a news photo of a New York City police officer wielding a baton during an Occupy Wall Street action in New York. The photo was posted in response to a Twitter request by the NYPD to offer up feel-good photos of people posing with police officers. NYPD Commissioner William Bratton on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 admits he was caught off guard by the harsh response to a harmless attempt at community outreach on Twitter, but says he has no plans to abandon social media. (AP Photo/Twitter)

est. What #myNYPD got instead was a montage of hundreds of news images of baton-wielding cops arresting protesters, pulling suspects by the hair, unleashing pepper spray and taking down a bloodied 84-year-old man for jaywalking.

It was a mistake of epic proportions, with the hashtag among the most-trafficked in the world Tuesday, creating a public relations nightmare for a new NYPD leadership intent on creating a more community-friendly

questions. Among them: "Did you have a specific number of people's lives you needed to ruin before you considered your business model a success?" McDonald's inadvertently ordered up some bad publicity in 2012 with its #McDStories campaign. Sample response: "I walked into a McDonald's and could smell the Type II diabetes." The #myNYPD misfire comes at a time when new Police Commissioner William Bratton is trying to rebrand the department to

police adversaries anticipated? To be quite frank, it was not," Bratton said. "But at the same time it's not going to cause us to change any of our efforts to be very active on social media. ... It is what it is. It's an open, transparent world." The #myNYPD traffic was holding steady on Wednesday, but the dialogue had shifted from mockery of the NYPD to an analysis of what went wrong, including the tweet "Social Media 101: Be careful what you ask for." □



## US Financial Front:

# Sales of new homes plunge 14.5 percent in March

**JOSH BOAK**  
AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The number of Americans buying new homes plummeted in March to the slowest

384,000. That was the second straight monthly decline and the lowest rate since July 2013.

Sales plunged in the Midwest, South and West in

and won't contribute" to overall economic growth this year, said Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics.

with the start of the spring. More would-be buyers venture to open houses. Families with children often begin to look for homes so that they can move once the school year ends. Builders anticipated a snap back with the warmer weather. There were 193,000 new homes for sale at the end of the month, about 39,000 more than the same period last month. Several other indicators also show that housing activity was muted last month. The National Association of Realtors said Tuesday that sales of existing homes edged down 0.2 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.59 million. It was the seventh drop in the past eight months. Sales have fallen, in part, because few homes are for sale.

There is a 5.2-month supply of existing homes on the market, much less than the 6-month level seen in healthier markets. More construction is needed to boost the supply, the Realtors' group argues. But the improvement in building has been slight. Builders started work on 946,000 homes at a seasonally adjusted annual rate in March, up 2.8 percent from 920,000 in February,

the Commerce Department said last week. Those figures include both single-family homes and rental properties. Applications for permits, a gauge of future activity, fell 2.4 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 990,000.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index was 47 in April. Readings below 50 indicate that more builders view sales conditions as poor rather than good. Sales have also been modest because of affordability issues.

Rising prices over the past year and higher mortgage rates have made it harder for many Americans to afford a home. Real estate data provider CoreLogic says home prices rose 12.2 percent in the past year. Wage growth last year failed to keep pace with the higher buying costs.

The average rate on a 30-year mortgage was 4.27 percent last week. Rates surged about 1.25 percentage points from May through September, peaking at 4.6 percent. Those increases began after the Federal Reserve signaled that it would begin to pull back from its bond-buying program. □



In this photo made on Friday, March 28, 2014, construction continues on a housing plan in Zelenople, Pa. The Commerce Department releases new home sales for March on Wednesday, April 23, 2014.

(AP Photo/Keith Srakocic)

pace in eight months, a sign that real estate's spring buying season is off to a weak start.

The Commerce Department said Wednesday that sales of new homes declined 14.5 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of

March. But they rebounded in the Northeast, where snowstorms in previous months curtailed purchases.

New-home sales have declined 13.3 percent over the past 12 months.

"Our core view is that the housing market has stalled

Rising home prices have caused some buyers to back off at the lower end of the market, while new-home buyers at the top continue to buy. As a result, median sales prices jumped 12.6 percent during the past month to \$290,000. Home sales usually improve



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## Risqué names reap rewards for some companies

JOHN GROSSMAN

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Corin and Brian Mullins thought they had a good name for their debut product, a nonallergenic, high-fiber breakfast cereal, until a supremely satisfied customer called to praise the

to wander mischievously. Heavy on chia and hemp seeds, the cereal he and his wife had first concocted in 2009 was extremely high in fiber. Why not just call it Holy Crap? At first, Corin Mullins demurred. But when the

of a joke. Or it might have been banned. Few would have expected annual sales to grow to \$5.5 million in four years.

Consider this recollection from an entrepreneur looking to name his initial venture, a record store, in

Kickass Cupcake, and order a breakfast sandwich at a Los Angeles restaurant called Eggslut.

Have we gotten to the point where pretty much anything goes? And are provocative, cheeky, even crude company and prod-

called his company HVLS Fan Co. - HVLS being shorthand for high volume, low speed. Soon, he started getting calls asking about his oversize, "big ass fans." Eventually, Smith, now 61, changed the name of the company to Big Ass Fans. The change played well with clients and potential customers, but not in the company's conservative, churchgoing hometown, Lexington, Ky.

For a time, the Lexington City Council considered forcing the company to remove its name from the side of its building. And the postmaster in Louisville refused to deliver a batch of its promotional postcards. That, Smith said, led to a "great story" in the local newspaper. Asked if somebody at the company had tipped off the newspaper, he answered: "Maaaaaaybe," drawing out the word suggestively. In the years since, Big Ass Fans has grown dramatically, but it continues to capitalize on the controversy stirred by its name, which Smith characterized as a whole lot of sanctimonious braying about a farm animal common in his home state. The company's mascot, Fanny, which appears on its logo and as a promotional squeeze toy, is a big-eared ass, most often depicted from the rear looking back toward its tail. The company, which now makes smaller residential fans as well, gives away so many promotional items sporting the logo - baseball caps, T-shirts, coffee mugs - that it has a department just to handle the items. "For everyone who thinks we're the Antichrist, there are a hundred who think this is the funniest thing ever," Smith said. □



Corin and Brian Mullins, who named their nonallergenic, high-fiber breakfast cereal, Holy Crap, in Gibsons, Canada. The Mullins have seen annual sales grow to \$5.5 million in four years after renaming their cereal.

(Kim Stallknecht/The New York Times)

product's effectiveness. "Holy crap," the customer began. After Corin Mullins hung up, she and her husband enjoyed a good laugh. Mullins, a retired Canada Air flight attendant, quickly got back to making the next batch of Hapi Food cereal - the name evoking the Egyptian god of annual Nile flooding - that she planned to sell at a farmers market near their home on the British Columbia coast north of Vancouver. But Brian Mullins, whose career had been spent in marketing communications, allowed his thoughts

couple shared the notion with members of the business class they were taking as fledgling entrepreneurs, everybody loved it. So they made up some new labels with the bold name and planned a test. Their first day at the farmers market, Corin Mullins had sold 10 bags of cereal under the old name; two weeks later, when she set up again with the new name, she sold 100 bags. The couple, both in their early 60s, have worked to keep up with demand ever since. Not long ago, a cereal called Holy Crap might have been the punch line

1969: "It smacked of new and fresh and at the time the word was still slightly risqué, so, thinking it would be an attention-grabber, we went with it." That is Richard Branson on naming his company Virgin. And back when the Yellow Pages was one of the most-thumbed books in the land, sly company founders named their businesses A-1 this or AAA that to appear atop the category listings. Nowadays, the bar for grabbing attention has moved much higher - or lower. You can now sip wines called Sassy Bitch and Fat Bastard, bite into a

uct names good for business? "If you're selling church song books or your customers are in the Bible Belt, it's probably not a good idea," said Eli Altman, creative director at a branding company called A Hundred Monkeys and author of "Don't Call It That," a guide to the naming process. But, Altman added, "with today's seven-second site visits and 2 percent click-through rates, I think it's significantly more risky to have a boring name than to have a risqué one." When Carey Smith began making industrial fans, he





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### Dutch scramble jets after Russian planes approach

**AMSTERDAM (AP)** — Dutch, British and Danish jets scrambled Wednesday afternoon after a pair of Russian bombers approached their airspace over the North Sea.

The Dutch ministry identified the planes as two Russian TU-95 Bears and said it had launched two F-16s from Volkel air force base to intercept them. The Russian jets were escorted by aircraft from the three NATO members until they departed. "That's why we scrambled, that's why the Danish scrambled and the English scrambled, to ensure they fly out of our air space," said Maj. Wilko Ter Horst. Anders Fridberg, spokesman for the Danish Defense Command, said the Russian planes came in from the north.

"We just followed them and just turned back when we reached Germany," he said. The Dutch ministry statement said such incidents have occurred before, citing one from March 21 and another from Sept. 10 last year. □

Choe Sang Hun  
Jiha Ham

© 2014 New York Times

JINDO, South Korea - "I know you are cold, hungry, scared, hurt down there," said one of the well-wishers' notes stuck on a rescuers' tent on a pier on this island. "My dear, the rope of life is coming your way." Such messages sounded more forlorn than hopeful Wednesday, as divers searching the ferry that sank a week earlier in waters off southeast South Korea brought out scores of bodies, nearly all those of high school students, but reported no sign of life inside. With hopes of finding more survivors all but gone, some families, as well as the nation, began bidding farewell to the students whose bodies have been recovered. And in an unusual gesture, North Korea sent its condolences.

In Ansan, a city south of Seoul, students and relatives filed in to Danwon High School, which the students had attended. The mourners, some weeping and wailing, laid long-stemmed white chrysanthemums,



A mother, center, of a passenger aboard the sunken ferry Sewol in the water off the southern coast cries after confirming her daughter's name on the list of the victims found dead at a port in Jindo, South Korea, Wednesday, April 23, 2014. The grim work of recovering bodies from the submerged South Korea ferry proceeded rapidly Wednesday, with the official death toll reaching more than 150, though a government official said divers must now rip through cabin walls to retrieve more victims.

(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

traditional flowers for funerals in Korea, before an altar in a gymnasium.

On the altar was a row of photographs of students who had been found dead

in the 6,825-ton ferry.

Survivors said most of the 325 students on board on a school trip were trapped inside after the crew repeatedly urged them to

stay where they were even though the ship was badly listing. Most of the crew members, however, were among the first to flee the ship. □



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## Amid Russia warning, Ukraine faces security bind

**YURAS KARMANAU**  
**Associated Press**

**DONETSK, Ukraine (AP)** —

Russia's foreign minister warned Wednesday that attacks on Russian citizens or interests in Ukraine would bring a firm response and drew a comparison to the circumstances that opened the war with Georgia in 2008.

"Russian citizens being attacked is an attack against the Russian Federation," Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said, a day after Ukraine announced it was re-launching a campaign against pro-Kremlin insurgents occupying government facilities in the mostly Russian-speaking east.

"If we were attacked we could certainly respond," Lavrov said, speaking on the Kremlin-funded satellite TV channel RT.

Lavrov's warning came as the Russian Foreign Ministry issued a separate statement demanding that Ukraine pull its armed forces out of the crisis-ridden region.

"If our interests, our legitimate interests, the interests of Russians have been attacked directly, like they were in South Ossetia, I do not see any other way but to respond in full accordance with international law," Lavrov said, referring to the 2008 war that led to the breaking away of the Georgian republic of South Ossetia.

In that conflict, Russia launched an invasion of Georgia after it unleashed an artillery attack on the capital of the separatist region, where Russian peacekeeping forces were stationed. However, unlike the conflict with Georgia, Russia has denied having troops or agents in eastern Ukraine.

The Russian warnings came

as an accord reached last week in Geneva to defuse the Ukraine crisis continued to crumble, with pro-Russian insurgents in the east defying calls for all sides to disarm and to vacate the buildings they are occupying.

On Tuesday, Ukraine's acting president, Oleksandr Turchynov, ordered resumption of an "anti-terrorist operation" against the

and demoralization," said Kiev-based political analyst Volodymyr Fesenko. "Today, most of them don't want to fight for anyone because they don't know who is going to win tomorrow and how all of this will end."

The army is underfunded and poorly equipped after years of corruption and mismanagement under Viktor Yanukovich, the Rus-

The insurgents, whom Kiev and the West claim have Russian backing and direction, have occupied buildings in at least 10 eastern cities.

It's a strategy that Eugene Rumer, director of the Russia program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, says appears to be "spreading across the map like ink blots."

"They are a long ways



**Women read a leaflet distributed by pro-Russian activists behind barricades in front of a regional administration building that was seized by pro-Russian activists earlier in Donetsk, Ukraine, Wednesday, April 23, 2014. Russia's foreign minister on Wednesday promised a firm response if its citizens or interests come under attack in Ukraine - a vow that came after Ukraine announced a renewal of its "anti-terror" campaign against those occupying buildings in its troubled east.**

(AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)

pro-Russia forces. However, the highly publicized move produced little action on the ground Wednesday.

A previous campaign to reclaim seized buildings showed few results before it was suspended last week. Ukrainian forces claimed to have regained control of one small airport, but insurgents also seized armored vehicles and reports said some Ukrainian soldiers had switched sides.

"Security forces are in a state of disorganization

sia-friendly president who fled the country in February after months of protests.

Yanukovich's ouster sparked wide anger in his support base in Ukraine's east. The insurgents, who claim Ukraine's post-Yanukovich government consists of nationalists who will suppress the east's large Russian-speaking population, are demanding regional autonomy or even annexation by Russia, like the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea last month.

away from merging into a large area, but this strategy is proving quite effective at challenging the power and authority of the Kiev government, undermining Ukraine's territorial integrity and spreading the insurgency over a vast region that otherwise the Russian military would struggle to occupy and control," he wrote in an analysis.

In analyst Fesenko's view, it's impossible for Ukraine to restore control over the insurgent region by force. □

## Europe recovery shows signs of strengthening

**DAVID McHUGH**  
**AP Business Writer**

**FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)** —

A closely watched survey has found business activity across the 18-country eurozone running at a three-year high, in perhaps the clearest sign yet that the economic recovery is gaining momentum.

Analysts say Wednesday's positive data could take some of the pressure off the European Central Bank to take further steps to stimulate the economy. However, stubbornly low inflation across the 18-country single currency zone remains a concern.

The Markit survey of purchasing managers — a closely watched gauge of business activity — climbed to 54.0 in April from 53.1 in March. That's the highest reading since May, 2011. Anything over 50 indicates expansion.

Analysts said Wednesday's figures, which cover both services and manufacturing companies, showed that the modest recovery in the eurozone was showing increasing strength.

"Growth is increasingly reaching proper recovery speed, thanks largely to rebounding domestic demand," economist Christian Schulz at Berenberg Bank said. For the ECB, he said, the readings "decrease the need for more stimulus."

Schulz said the strong rise for the services part of the survey, to 53.1 from 52.2 in March, gave a better reading for demand from businesses and consumers at home.

That's as opposed to exporters whose business depends more on the global economy. □





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# Palestinian factions announce deal on unity government

ISABEL KERSHNER

JODI RUDOREN

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**JERUSALEM** - The two main Palestinian factions an-

even on how to extend the talks past the deadline.

Ismail Haniya, the prime minister of the Hamas government in Gaza, said at a

which refuses to recognize Israel and which Israel considers a terrorist group.

"Does he want peace with Hamas, or peace with Is-

forts would lead to tangible changes on the ground, because neither Fatah nor Hamas has shown interest in genuine power-sharing

in the past, and they have deep differences over how to deal with Israel.

Even so, some experts said the latest effort at reconciliation appeared more serious than past attempts, because both factions are under growing pressure. Gaza under Hamas has been severely weakened by an Egyptian crackdown on the smuggling tunnels along the Gaza-Egypt border and an Israeli blockade. And Abbas, for his part, has faced growing criticism from West Bank residents about the negotiations with Israel and his own legitimacy, with Palestinian elections long overdue. He has threatened to dissolve the Palestinian Authority, which exercises limited self-rule in the West Bank, if the talks with Israel end in failure.

Haniya, the Hamas leader, read the text of the reconciliation agreement out loud to reporters in Gaza.

□



From second left: Azzam al-Ahmad, a senior Fatah official, Ismail Haniya, prime minister of the Hamas government in Gaza, and Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook, a senior leader for Hamas, celebrate after announcing an agreement to heal a seven-year schism and form a unity government, in Gaza City, April 23, 2014. The deal between Hamas and the Palestine Liberation Organization appeared more serious than past attempts, experts said, and came as hopes faded for a resolution to peace negotiations with Israel.

(Wissam Nassar/The New York Times)

nounced an agreement Wednesday to heal a seven-year schism and form a unity government within five weeks that would prepare for Palestinian elections six months later.

The two groups - the Palestine Liberation Organization, which runs the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, and Hamas, the militant Islamist group that controls the Gaza Strip - have reached similar accords before that were never carried out. But the latest deal comes as the fragile U.S.-brokered peace efforts between the Palestinians and Israel are approaching an April 29 deadline without a resolution in sight. People familiar with the discussions have said the Israeli and Palestinian sides were far apart

news conference here, "I announce to our people the news that the years of split are over."

Israel responded to the announcement by canceling a meeting among the peace negotiators that was scheduled for Wednesday night. An Israeli with knowledge of the talks said that though it was not yet clear how the reconciliation would ultimately affect the talks, "it introduces a huge complication" at a critical juncture and "takes the winds out of the sails." Before the announcement, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel warned Mahmoud Abbas, the president of the Palestinian Authority and leader of Fatah, the main group in the PLO, against reconciling with Hamas,

rael?" Netanyahu asked. "You can have one but not the other. I hope he chooses peace. So far he hasn't done so."

Adding to the volatile atmosphere, Israel carried out an airstrike in the northern Gaza Strip on Wednesday, around the time the deal was being announced. The Health Ministry in Gaza said that 12 Palestinians were wounded, including two children. Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, the armed wing of Fatah, said a group of its members in the town of Beit Lahiya were the target. The Israeli military said it had mounted a "counterterrorism operation" but gave no specifics about the target. Analysts remained skeptical about whether the Palestinian reconciliation ef-

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## Venezuela: Economic crisis stalling the malls

**FABIOLA SANCHEZ**  
**Associated Press**

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**

— Staring through a glass storefront at the Sambil shopping mall, Aleimar Sanchez sees more than a struggling business in the near-empty shelves of a Casio electronics store. She sees a country in sad decline.

Since its inauguration in 1999, Caracas' biggest mall has been a hive of frenzied shopping, a glitzy counterpoint to the anti-capitalist tirades of the late Hugo Chavez. Today, a few die-hard shoppers stroll through dimly lit corridors, past stained walls in need of a paint job, and shut-

is sinking deeper into ruin every day," said Sanchez, a 39-year-old sales clerk visiting from Puerto Ordaz in southern Venezuela, where she said shelves are even more barren.

While a decade of rigid price controls long ago forced Venezuelans to scavenge for basic goods like toilet paper and corn flour, an oil-fueled spending boom and hands-off approach to less-essential parts of the economy had always left stores filled with North Face jackets and Louis Vuitton handbags, catering to the well-off looking display their social status with designer brands. Things started to change

ing and hoarding by opposition-aligned merchants waging an "economic war" to destabilize his government. His response has sent shockwaves through the retail industry. In November, he seized a nationwide chain of appliance stores and slashed prices on fridges, plasma TVs and computers. The fire sale, which emptied the shelves, was followed by an even more devastating blow to business: a freeze on commercial rents at rates more than 50 percent lower than they had been at some malls.

The retail landscape has never looked more forlorn. Incomes for shopping malls



**People ride the nearly empty escalators inside Sambil mall in the city in Caracas, Venezuela. Fifteen years of socialist rule and an acute economic crisis is catching up with Venezuela's shopping malls, once impenetrable oases of consumerism where rich and poor alike sought refuge from crime-ridden streets.**

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

tered boutiques. In those stores that are open, employees spread out their dwindling supply of garments, cellphones and designer bags on shelves and window displays.

Fifteen years of socialist rule and an acute economic crisis is catching up with Venezuela's shopping malls, once impenetrable oases of consumerism where rich and poor alike sought refuge from crime-ridden streets.

"It makes you bitter to think that a country so rich

with the election a year ago of President Nicolas Maduro and the onset of an economic crisis that has been the main driver of deadly protests shaking the country over the past three months.

With the supply of dollars drying up as oil production wanes, imports have fallen and shortages have hit record levels. Meanwhile, galloping 57 percent inflation is eroding families' purchasing power.

Maduro says the problems are a result of price goug-

plummeted by as much as 75 percent as a result of the rent freeze, according to Claudia Itriago, director of the Venezuelan Chamber of Shopping Centers. Malls that were a rare magnet for investment under Chavez are now at risk of shutting down. To reduce costs, many are cutting back on frills such as holiday displays, and even essential services like cleaning and air conditioning. At Sambil, many of its escalators sit idle for lack of maintenance. □



**In this photo provided by James L. Berenthal, jailed American Alan Gross poses for a photo during a visit by Rabbi Elie Abadie and U.S. lawyer James L. Berenthal at Finlay military hospital as he serves a prison sentence in Havana, Cuba. Scott Gilbert, Gross' attorney said Wednesday, April 23, 2014, that Gross is suffering a number of ailments. On May 2, Gross will turn 65 years old.**

(AP Photo/James L. Berenthal)

## Lawyer: US man held in Cuba seeks to go home soon

**PETER ORSI**  
**Associated Press**

**HAVANA (AP)** — The lawyer for U.S. government subcontractor Alan Gross, who has been imprisoned for more than four years in Cuba, said Wednesday his client is certain he will go home in the next year, be it alive or dead.

Speaking to reporters in Havana after visiting Gross, attorney Scott Gilbert said the American has lost most vision in his right eye, walks with a limp due to hip problems, has lost a tooth and is 110 pounds lighter than at the time of his arrest.

"Alan told me unequivocally that his 65th birthday, which occurs on May 2, will be the last birthday that he celebrates in Havana, one way or the other," Gilbert said.

He said Gross is frustrated over his situation but remains hopeful.

"He's also a very determined individual, and Alan means what he says, which is that one year from now if this issue has been resolved, he will come home to his family.

If it has not been resolved, he will come home dead," Gilbert said.

Gross recently engaged

in a hunger strike for nine days but called it off at his mother's urging.

Gross, who is from Maryland, was arrested in Cuba in 2009 after he was caught setting up hard-to-detect Internet networks for the island's small Jewish community on a U.S. Agency for International Development contract.

Cuba considers such programs to be an affront to its sovereignty and sentenced him to 15 years for crimes against the state.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said U.S. officials are "extremely concerned" about Gross' case.

"It's one the secretary (John Kerry) and other officials raised with our interlocutors who have relationships and have discussions with Cuba," Psaki said in Washington.

She said U.S. officials have engaged influential third parties to press for Gross' release and "kept the case at the forefront of our discussions."

Still, Gilbert repeated previous demands for Washington to do more, and specifically for President Barack Obama to get personally involved with the case. □





Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>:

## Cas di Cultura hosts Aruban Guitar Legacy Concert!

**ORANJESTAD** - That Aruba has lots of local musical talents was demonstrated in a completely filled Cas Di Cultura a few weeks ago. Public attending could enjoy local stars such as Michelangelo Koolman, Miguel Genser, Chris Kross and many more.

**THE ARUBAN GUITAR LEGACY CONCERT:** As our younger talents also need to be stimulated in their musical careers, Cas di Cultura has taken it upon itself to feature all these young inspiring musicians in the Aruban Guitar Legacy Concert which will take place Saturday, April 26. Last year Cas di Cultura hosted the Aruba Piano Legacy Concert which with an attendance of more than 300 people marked a great event. This year, with the guitar and guitarist being highlighted and accompanied by a live jazz band, Cas di Cultura anticipates a full house.



starting with the Aruba Art Ensemble, the Carlos Bislip and Friends Concert, the Carlos Bislip's Jazz Expo, (JAM) Jazz Appreciation Month and the Aruban Piano Legacy concert. Lately he has been dedicating his efforts to exposing young up and coming Aruban talents.

Freddy Franken, an Aruban who has built up his musical career in the US and currently works in Chicago as a professor at the Olivet University will be featured as the main act during the show.

Also prior to the concert he will be hosting a master class for guitarists on Aruba.

The other highlighted guitarists are Ryan Maduro, who teaches music at the Rufo Wever Music Academy, Cris Kross, Brandon Croes and Jean Claude Richardson. They will be accompanied by Ivan Quandus on bass, Angelo Kock behind the piano,



**THE LINE-UP:** Artistic director Carlos Bislip is a household name in the Aruban music industry. He has been organizing concerts since 1990; e.g.

Lidrick Solognier on percussion and drums by Carlos Bislip himself. Tickets for this fabulous concert are available at Cas Di Cultura, VCC Inter-

national NV, Yantis and Cars NV. Date and Time: Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of April 8:00-10:00pm.

For more information please contact Jane PR+ at 597-1709, or Cas di Cultura at 582-1010.

For reservations please email [info@casdicultura.aw](mailto:info@casdicultura.aw). □



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## The Sunset Grille Restaurant Entertains Members of the Press



**PALM BEACH** - The award-winning Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa played host to a group of media personalities on the eve of the Easter holiday, serving AAA Four-Diamond hors d'oeuvres over cocktails, peppered with information about the resort and its upcoming events. Gracious Nunette Maduro, the Radisson's PR & Communication Executive greeted the dignitaries on behalf of management and shared the latest information about Easter festivities, Earth Day activities,



and various other ongoing promotions, also introducing Audrey Wolff, Catering & Convention Services Manager who spoke about the resort's plans for Holy Communion celebrations and the upcoming Spring and Summer weddings. Aruba's Grand Dame resort, which completed an USD 26 million refresh and renovation project last year boasts 355-rooms, spread over three elegant towers, with key public areas in between. Guests checking in the resort experience a new sense of arrival, with updated furnishings and a reception area in the open-air lobby overlooking the magnificent views of the ocean, beach, and pool, the moment they arrive. The beautiful décor in the AAA Four Diamond Sunset Grille Restaurant spills over to Mira Solo Martini Bar, aimed at maximizing guests' waterfront experience, from every angle. Among press members enjoying the legendary hospitality of the Sunset Grille Restaurant, local radio, TV and newspaper personalities who were pampered



with grilled-to-perfection Lamb Chops, USDA Certified Angus Beef tips, and colorful just-made sushi rolls, all prepared in the exhibition kitchen under the watchful eye of the resort's culinary artists. Press members also enjoyed a raffle with unexpected but much-appreciated gift certificates from Larimar Spa and the Sunset Grille Restaurant. Pictured here unforgettable moments at the press and media reception. □

**Beauty On The Beach**

*Katie Howard*

She is from Cleveland, Ohio, and it's her first time in Aruba. She loves the Beach and the local people. She is staying at the Radisson Beach Resort.

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# Aruba Happy Rentals receives a 'Top Rental Award' by Flipkey and is 'Rated Excellent' by TripAdvisor!

**PALM BEACH** - Based on exceptional guest reviews and an impressive listing, Aruba Happy Rentals has been recognized with a "Top Rental Property" award by FlipKey.

This exclusive honor was awarded to a very select group of vacation rental owners based on reviews from guests.

Additionally, Aruba Happy Rentals has also qualified for a "Rated Excellent" badge from TripAdvisor!

Aruba Happy Rentals was founded in 2005 by Albert Mostert. Meanwhile Aruba Happy Rentals is a great team with professionals to make sure guests from all over the world enjoy a wonderful vacation in Aruba and that each homeowner has a piece of mind while Aruba Happy Rentals takes care of their slice of paradise -



beautiful apartments, villas and houses on the island. Today Aruba Happy Rentals has an inventory of more than 150 properties for short and long term rental and overseas their property management and maintenance.

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fered by the company are: Property Management, Vacation Villa Rentals, Long Term Rentals, Real Estate, Investing Opportunities, Local Housing & Development, Construction Project Management and Guidance.

"Continuity, Quality, Reli-

ability and Customer Service has always been our main priority.

Receiving this 'Top Rental Property' award is the result of the work of each team member in combination with the support from our homeowners and clients," says Albert Mostert, founder and owner of the company.

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In this April 25, 2013 file photo, Conrado Marrero, the oldest living former Major League Baseball player, poses for a photo during his 102nd birthday bash at his home in Havana, Cuba. Family members say Conrado Marrero has died in Havana. Associated Press

### Oldest living ex-MLB player dies in Cuba at 102

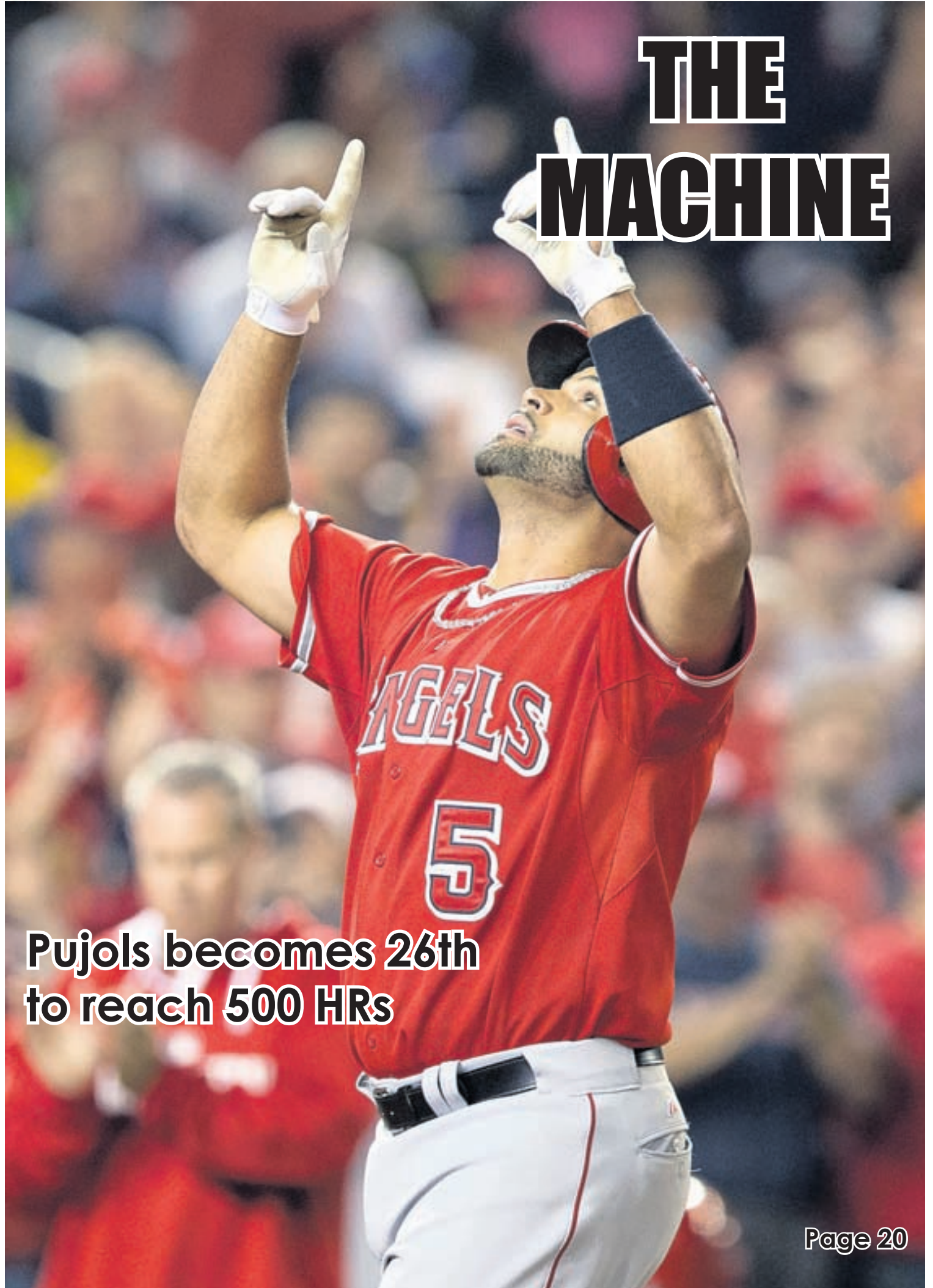
PETER ORSI  
Associated Press

**HAVANA (AP)** — Conrado Marrero, the diminutive Cuban right-hander who pitched for the Washington Senators in the 1950s and in 2011 became the oldest living former Major League Baseball player, died in Havana on Wednesday. He was 102, just two days short of his 103rd birthday.

Marrero's grandson said he died in the early afternoon.

"He woke up in the morning and it was like he wasn't there. He wasn't reacting," Rogelio Marrero told The Associated Press. "Connie" Marrero, as he was known in the States, was renowned for his control and for his presence on the mound despite standing just 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighing 158 pounds. What Marrero lacked in heat he made up for with a tricky repertoire of breaking balls, knucklers and other off-speed pitches.

*Continued on Next Page*



## THE MACHINE

### Pujols becomes 26th to reach 500 HRs

Los Angeles Angels Albert Pujols points upwards as he crosses home plate after hitting a two-run homer against Washington Nationals Taylor Jordan in the fifth inning of a baseball game in Washington, Tuesday, April 22, 2014. This was Pujols 500th career home run. Associated Press



*NHL playoff capsules*

# Canadiens complete sweep of Lightning

**MONTREAL (AP)** — Max Pacioretty lifted the Montreal Canadiens into the second round of the Stanley Cup playoffs Tuesday night with a power-play goal with 43 seconds remaining for a 4-3 victory and a four-game sweep of Tampa Bay.

The first team to advance this year, the Canadiens also got goals from Daniel Briere, Brendan Gallagher and Lars Eller.

Ondrej Palat had a goal and an assist for Tampa Bay. Victor Hedman pulled the Lightning within one goal three minutes into the third period, and Tyler Johnson tied the game three minutes later.

Lightning backup goaltender Kristers Gudlevskis replaced Anders Lindback after Gallagher's goal 5:42 into the second period. Lindback gave up three goals on 20 shots, while Gudlevskis stopped 16 of 17 shots in relief.

**SHARKS 4, KINGS 3, OT**  
**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Patrick Marleau scored on a backhand 6:20 into overtime, and San Jose moved to the brink of the second



**Boston Bruins left wing Milan Lucic (17) checks Detroit Red Wings defenseman Brendan Smith (2) during the first period of Game 3 of a first-round NHL hockey playoff series in Detroit, Tuesday, April 22, 2014.**  
**Associated Press**

round with a victory over Los Angeles to take a 3-0 first-round series lead.

Rookie Tomas Hertl tied it with 10:43 left in regulation for the Sharks, who survived a much-improved effort from their bitter California rivals after two blowout wins in San Jose.

Marleau ended it for the Sharks with his third goal of the series. His shot banked off Kings defenseman Slava Voynov's stick on its way past Jonathan Quick, who made 36 saves in his third straight loss.

Antti Niemi stopped 28 shots for the Sharks.

Game 4 is Thursday in Los Angeles.

The Sharks have won five straight overtime playoff games and 10 of their past 11, with Marleau scoring four game-winning goals during that remarkable stretch.

Los Angeles has slipped to the brink of first-round elimination just two years after its Stanley Cup title run.

**BRUINS 3, RED WINGS 0**  
**DETROIT (AP)** — Tuukka Rask finished with a 23-save shutout to give the Bruins a 2-1 playoff series lead.

Dougie Hamilton and Jordan Caron scored in the first period, and Patrice Bergeron added an empty-net goal late in the game. The Presidents' Trophy-winning Bruins are ahead for the first time in the opening-round series. And, it seems like a commanding lead the way Boston has played the past two games.

Detroit has to win Game 4 on Thursday night to avoid facing elimination when the series shifts back to Boston.

Jimmy Howard made 31 saves for the Red Wings,

who needed him to make what appeared to be a routine stop midway through the first period on the first goal. He couldn't.

**RANGERS 4, FLYERS 1**  
**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Derek Stepan, Martin St. Louis, Dan Girardi and Dan Carcillo all scored, and Henrik Lundqvist stopped 31 shots to give the Rangers a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

Lundqvist was backed by a defense that delivered with a flurry of blocked shots to stymie the Flyers. The Rangers took an early 2-0 lead and that was enough of a cushion for a team that led the Eastern Conference with 25 road victories.

Mark Streit scored for the Flyers. Ray Emery struggled in net in his third straight start of the postseason for Steve Mason, and was lifted late in the third period. Game 4 is Friday in Philadelphia.

**In other NHL games** it was NY Rangers 4, Philadelphia 0; Boston 3, Detroit 0; San Jose 4, Los Angeles 0, OT; and Montreal 4, Tampa Bay 3. □

## Ex-MLB

*Continued from Page 17*

He also had a quirky wind-up that Felipe Alou once likened to "a cross between a windmill gone berserk and a mallard duck trying to fly backwards."

In interviews with the AP in recent years, Marrero recounted the highlights of a career facing off against Hall of Famers such as Mickey Mantle and Larry Doby. Beating the New York Yankees was especially gratifying, he said. He also recalled struggling against left-handed batters in general, and southpaw slugger Ted Williams in particular, a frustration shared by plenty of his contemporaries.

"One day Williams got two home runs off me, and afterward he came up to me and said, 'Sorry, it was my day today.' I responded, 'Ted, every day is your day,'" Marrero said in 2012.



**In this Oct. 12, 2003 file photo, Cuban pitcher Conrado Marrero, left, receives an award from Cuban President of the Sport Institute Humberto Rodriguez during the opening ceremony of the 35th baseball world championships in Havana, Cuba.**  
**Associated Press**

Born April 25, 1911, in the town of Sagua la Grande, about 220 miles (350 kilometers) east of Havana, Marrero's nickname on the

island was "The Peasant from Laberinto," after the farm where he grew up. He began his career playing third base, shortstop

and the outfield, and his debut on the mound came by accident one day in 1935 when his Sagua club didn't have a regular pitcher available. Marrero won the game, and the team asked him to remain at the position. He went on to play at Cienfuegos, Almendares, Marianao and Havana, and briefly in the Mexican league in 1945 for the Indios of Juarez. He also starred on Cuba's national team. Marrero was already near the end of his career when he made his U.S. debut in 1950 at age 39. In five seasons with the Senators, he compiled a 39-40 record with an ERA of 3.96 and 297 strikeouts. He was named an All-Star in 1951.

Cut by the Senators in 1955, he returned to Cuba to play for the Havana Sugar Kings and retired after the 1957 season. He continued to work as a coach and instructor into his 80s, and was honored by the gov-

ernment as a Hero of the Republic of Cuba in 1999.

Past the century mark, Marrero was blind, hard of hearing and used a wheelchair. He spent much of his time listening to Cuban baseball games on the radio, often chewing on a cigar. He had difficulty speaking, but visibly lit up when reminiscing about his time in the big leagues. "Putting on that uniform always made me feel bigger, more powerful," Marrero said in 2013, on his 102nd birthday.

Marrero became the oldest living former-major leaguer in February 2011 after the death of former Brooklyn Dodgers infielder Tony Ma-linosky.

Baseball Hall of Fame librarian Jim Gates said that distinction now goes to Mike Sandlock, a 98-year-old former catcher who played 195 games with the Braves, Dodgers and Pirates. Sandlock was born Oct. 17, 1915. □



# Wie ready to ride momentum from last win

JANIE McCAULEY

AP Sports Writer

**DALY CITY, California (AP)** — A beaming Michelle Wie explained her oversized visor as a necessary new addition after recently discovering wrinkles at age 24, then good-naturedly defended her unique, hunched-over putting stroke because Jack Nicklaus uses it. Improved sun protection and short game aside, Wie is riding high after a comeback win in her home state of Hawaii last week. Now, she returns to familiar ground in the Bay Area looking to build on her first U.S. LPGA Tour victory in nearly four years when she competes in the inaugural Swinging Skirts LPGA Classic — just up the road from her former university, Stanford.

After arriving in town early Monday, Wie took a nap before visiting the university, where she “wanted to hug every single freshman I saw.” She enjoyed a tour of new athletic facilities and is determined to represent Stanford well in her first visit back to San Francisco since graduating in the spring of 2012.

“I really believe we are a bunch of nerds, but at the same time we’re

kinda cool,” Wie joked on Tuesday, referring to Stanford’s Nerd Nation theme. “I’m so proud I’m a Stanford grad.”

Her fellow golfers were quick to offer hugs and congratulations to the former teen phenomenon for winning the LPGA LOTTE Championship. It marked her first win since 2010 and first since graduating from Stanford. Her rivals say it’s hard to cheer against Wie, so well-respected and liked on and off the golf course.

“She’s a smart girl. There aren’t very many girls who have completed four solid years at Stanford while playing on the LPGA Tour,” world No. 2 Suzann Pettersen said. “That takes a huge effort. For her to finally be able to concentrate on golf full-time has helped her golf, for sure. If you ask me, Michelle has underachieved. She has every shot in the bag.”

Pettersen herself hopes for a rally of sorts at Lake Merced Golf Club this week.

This marks her first start since she was forced to pull out of last month’s Kia Classic with a back injury and missed the past three



Michelle Wie, top center, holds her trophy and is surrounded by the media after winning the 2014 LPGA LOTTE Championship golf tournament at Ko Olina Golf Club, Saturday, April 19, 2014, in Kapolei, Hawaii. Associated Press

events, with a prescription of rest to heal.

“I’m here, which is a good sign. I never would have been here if I wasn’t feeling good,” the Norwegian said. “I love the Bay Area. It’s definitely one of my favorite spots in America after New York.”

The Swinging Skirts Classic starts

on Thursday with a field including world No. 1 Inbee Park, Stacy Lewis, Karrie Webb, Anna Nordqvist, 16-year-old Lydia Ko, and local fan favorites Paula Creamer, Natalie Gulbis and Juli Inkster. The Swinging Skirts is the first U.S. LPGA Tour event in the United States led by a Taiwanese organization. □

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# Albert Pujols hits 500th HR of major league career

**HOWARD FENDRICH**

**AP Sports Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Albert Pujols smiled as he explained why he felt the need to apologize to his wife for hitting home run No. 500 so quickly after No. 499.

She planned to be there in person once he got within one of the milestone.

He didn't give her the chance. Pujols became the first major leaguer to hit his 499th and 500th homers in the same game, connecting twice and driving in five runs in the Los Angeles Angels' 7-2 victory over the Washington Nationals on Tuesday. He's the 26th player in MLB history to reach 500.

"I went and made a phone call and I called her, and she was doing her nails. And everybody in the salon, I guess, was telling her, 'Congratulations!' And she was like, 'Did you just hit your 500th?' I was like, 'I'm sorry,'" Pujols said with a laugh.

"She would have loved to be here with my kids and my family. She drives me every day to try to be a better person, a better



**Los Angeles Angels Albert Pujols watches the ball after connecting for a two-run homer against Washington Nationals Taylor Jordan in the fifth inning of a baseball game in Washington, Tuesday, April 22, 2014. This was Pujols 500th career home run.**

**Associated Press**

player. I would have loved to share this moment with her here."

Hitting like the Pujols of old, the three-time National League MVP delivered a three-run homer in the first inning and two-run drive in the fifth, both off Taylor Jordan (0-3).

He also hit his 400th homer at Nationals Park.

"I admire his ability and the way he goes about playing the game, and I have for some time," said Washington manager Matt Williams, who played against

Pujols. "I just wish he'd do it against somebody else." About three months past his 34th birthday, Pujols is the third youngest to get to 500; Alex Rodriguez and Jimmie Foxx were 32. Pujols has eight homers in the past 13 games and

leads the Angels with 19 RBIs.

After a couple of down-for-him years with the Angels following 11 transcendent seasons with the St. Louis Cardinals, Pujols appears ready to reclaim his spot among the game's elite hitters.

He homered on Friday and Saturday at Detroit to lift his total to 498, and he's reached the round number of 500 — a total that remains hallowed despite losing luster lately because so many players surpassed it. Of the 26 members of MLB's 500-homer club, 11 reached the mark in the last 15 years, according to STATS.

Gary Sheffield was the previous player to do it, in April 2009.

"You don't see 500, obviously, every night," Pujols said. "It's been a great career." In other NL games it was Colorado 2, San Francisco 1; San Diego 2, Milwaukee 1 in 12 innings; Chicago Cubs 9, Arizona 2; Cincinnati 4, Pittsburgh 1; Philadelphia 3, LA Dodgers 2 in 10 innings; St. Louis 3, NY Mets 0; and Seattle 1, Atlanta 0. □



**New York Yankees' Jacoby Ellsbury is booed by fans as he walks to the plate for his first at-bat during the first inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Tuesday, April 22, 2014.**

**Associated Press**

**BOSTON (AP)** — Jacoby Ellsbury doubled, tripled, drove in two runs and made a sliding catch in his return to Fenway Park, helping the New York Yankees and Masahiro Tanaka beat the Boston Red Sox 9-3 Tuesday night.

Ellsbury received a mixed reception in his first game at Fenway since leaving

the Red Sox to sign a \$153 million, seven-year contract with the Yankees.

Tanaka (3-0) allowed two runs on seven hits in 7 1-3 innings with seven strikeouts and no walks. His 35 strikeouts in his first four major league starts set a team record and he's walked just two batters in 29 1-3 innings.

## Ellsbury lifts Yankees in return to Fenway

Jon Lester (2-3) struggled after four outstanding outings, allowing seven runs in 4 2-3 innings.

There were more boos than cheers from the crowd that contained a sizeable amount of Yankees fans when Ellsbury stepped in as the first batter of the game. With an 0-2 count, he drove the ball about five feet from the top of the center field wall. It was ruled a triple after a spectator reached out and interfered with it. **TIGERS 8, WHITE SOX 6**

**DETROIT (AP)** — Miguel Cabrera hit a two-run homer, Justin Verlander pitched seven solid innings and Detroit held on for a victory over Chicago. Cabrera was 4 for 23 on this

homestand before going 3 for 5 against the White Sox — including a homer and a double off Charlie Leeman (0-1), who was called up from the minors to start in place of the injured Chris Sale.

Verlander (3-1) had little to worry about after allowing a first-inning homer to Jose Abreu. He allowed two runs and eight hits, striking out seven and walking two.

Chicago's Dayan Viciedo had a career-high four hits, and Adam Dunn hit a two-run homer in the ninth to pull the White Sox within two. Joba Chamberlain got the final out for his first save, retiring Alexei Ramirez on a liner to left with one on.

**RAYS 7, TWINS 3**

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)** — David Price allowed six hits in his first complete game of the season, David DeJesus drove in three runs, and Tampa beat Minnesota.

Price (3-1) struck out 12 in his ninth career complete game.

DeJesus stopped an 0-for-24 skid with an RBI single during a three-run first and added a third-inning two-run single.

Kyle Gibson (3-1) gave up seven runs and 10 hits in three-plus innings for Minnesota. The right-hander had given up just two runs over 19 1-3 innings in his three other starts this year.

The Twins got home runs from Brian Dozier and Chris Colabello. □



## NBA Playoff Capsules

# Wizards rally past Bulls in OT, lead 2-0



Toronto Raptors forward Jonas Valanciunas shoots while falling in front of Brooklyn Nets' Mason Plumlee, during the first half of Game 2 in an NBA basketball first-round playoff series, Tuesday, April 22, 2014, in Toronto. Associated Press

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Bradley Beal came on strong late in regulation to finish with 26 points, Nene scored six of his 17 in overtime and the Washington Wizards beat the Chicago Bulls 101-99 Tuesday to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round playoff series. Washington rallied from 10 down in the fourth quarter after blowing a 17-point first-quarter lead. Nene scored the first six

points in overtime after being held in check by Defensive Player of the Year Joakim Noah in regulation, and the Wizards hung on after Kirk Hinrich failed to convert at the foul line in the closing seconds. D.J. Augustin led Chicago with 25 points, and Taj Gibson had 22 points and 10 rebounds. John Wall had 16 points and seven assists for Washington, which will host

Game 3 of the best-of-seven series on Friday night. **RAPTORS 100, NETS 95** DeMar DeRozan scored 30 points, and Jonas Valanciunas had 15 points and 14 rebounds as Toronto beat Brooklyn to even their first-round playoff series at one game each. Amir Johnson scored 16 points and Kyle Lowry had 14 as the Raptors rebounded from a 94-87 loss in Game 1. It was Valanciunas' second straight playoff double-double. Joe Johnson scored 18 points, Deron Williams had 15 and Mirza Teletovic 14 for the Nets, who will host Game 3 on Friday night. Hampered by foul trouble throughout the game, Brooklyn's Paul Pierce went 2 for 11 from the field, including 0 for 6 from 3-point range. He finished with seven points. Kevin Garnett scored 13 points and Shaun Livingston had 12 for the Nets, who led 66-64 heading into the fourth and couldn't take advantage of 21 Toronto turnovers.

**PACERS 101, HAWKS 85 INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — Paul George had 27 points, 10 rebounds and six assists, leading Indiana to the victory. The Pacers and Hawks are tied at a game apiece heading into Game 3 in Atlanta on Thursday. Reserve Luis Scola added 20 points and seven rebounds for the Pacers.

George Hill had all 15 of his points in the second half. Indiana grabbed control with a 25-2 run that carried over into the fourth quarter. George was especially effective even though he spent much of the night defending Hawks point guard Jeff Teague, who had 14 points. Paul Millsap finished with 19 for Atlanta. □

## Suns' Dragic honored as NBA's Most Improved Player

By **BOB BAUM**  
AP Sports Writer

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Of course, the NBA's most improved team would have its most improved player. Goran Dragic, whose breakout season helped the Phoenix Suns make a remarkable transformation, was presented the most improved award at a ceremony Wednesday at US Airways Center. The 6-foot-3 Slovenian, who turns 28 in two weeks, flourished under first-year coach Jeff Hornacek's double-point guard system, teaming with Eric Bledsoe to form a dynamic backcourt. "We're looking for players who can go out there every night and lay it all out there," Hornacek said, "play through injuries, do everything the coaches ask, play with confidence. That's what Goran did."

Dragic averaged 20.5 points and 5.9 assists per game, shooting 50.5 percent from the field, 40.8 percent on 3-pointers. He was the only player in the NBA to shoot better than 50 percent from the field and 40 percent from 3-point range. "The main thing was my confidence this year," he said. "I feel that my teammates, they trust me. The coaches trust me. I can play my game, be confident, be tough and then shoot the ball better." Dragic recalled the doubters when he came into the league. "I can remember one quote from a newspaper, somebody said that I'm the worst player in the NBA and my last name should not be Dragic but 'tragic,'" he said. "That sticks in your head. It sticks in my head. On the practice court, I al-



This Sept. 30, 2013 file photo shows Phoenix Suns NBA basketball player Goran Dragic, of Slovenia, during the teams NBA media day in Phoenix. Associated Press

ways have this in my mind." Dragic received 408 of a possible 1,134 points, including 65 first-place votes, from a panel of 126 sports writers and broadcasters in the United States and Canada. □

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MON-WED 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35

**the Other Woman**  
THURS 2:00 | 4:25 | 6:50 | 9:15  
FRI-SAT 2:00 | 4:25 | 6:50 | 9:15 | 11:50  
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**A HAUNTED HOUSE 2**  
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MON-WED 5:10 | 7:20 | 9:30

**BEARS**  
THURS 2:10 | 4:05  
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SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:05  
MON-WED 4:05

**Rio 2**  
3D VERSION  
THURS 1:50 | 4:05 | 6:20 | 8:40  
FRI-SAT 1:50 | 4:05 | 6:20 | 8:40  
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:05 | 6:20 | 8:40  
MON-WED 4:05 | 6:20 | 8:40  
3D VERSION  
THURS 2:50 | 5:10 | 7:30  
FRI-SAT 2:50 | 5:10 | 7:30 | 9:50  
SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:10 | 7:30  
WED-MON 5:10 | 7:30

**NOAH**  
THURS 2:40 | 5:35 | 8:30  
FRI-SAT 2:40 | 5:35 | 8:30 | 11:25  
SUN & HOL 2:40 | 5:35 | 8:30  
MON-WED 5:35 | 8:30

**CAPTAIN AMERICA THE WINTER SOLDIER**  
THURS 3:20 | 6:15 | 9:10  
FRI-SAT 3:20 | 6:15 | 9:10  
SUN & HOL 3:20 | 6:15 | 9:10  
WED-MON 6:15 | 9:10

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# Ferrer ousted, Rafael Nadal wins at Barcelona Open

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— Second-seeded David Ferrer was ousted from the Barcelona Open by a Russian opponent for the second straight year and defending champion Rafael Nadal labored to victory on Wednesday.

Ferrer was unable to find his rhythm in losing 6-4, 6-2 to Teymuraz Gabashvili in his opening match while Nadal struggled past fellow Spanish player Albert Ramos 7-6 (2), 6-4.

Nadal eventually overcame his 103rd-ranked opponent to reach the third round, rebounding from a surprise loss to Ferrer in the Monte Carlo Masters quarterfinals.

"After losing in the Monte Carlo I wanted to raise my game here," Nadal said. "It just took a while."

Eight-time winner Nadal was made to work against the stubborn Ramos, who broke back in the 11th game to force the first-set tiebreaker. Nadal eventually came out on the winning end of a long rally of baseline shots for a 4-2 lead as he went on to take the set.

Nadal was steadier after that but still could not shake Ramos. He sealed it after a quick talk with the tournament doctor by breaking his fellow left-hander to win the match.

"I had to accept that I was going to be made to work today, that I was not playing at my best level," Nadal said. "But I got through it."

Nadal will face Ivan Dodig next after the Croatian dismissed Feliciano Lopez of Spain 6-1, 6-4.

Ferrer, meanwhile, will not be facing Nadal in the final for a fifth time after the 55th-ranked Gabashvili dominated Ferrer on his favored clay to reach the last 16.

Gabashvili kept Ferrer running to the corners, and the fifth-ranked Spaniard was surprisingly unable to keep up with shots he normally returns, looking fatigued at times.



Rafael Nadal gestures after his victory over Albert Ramos during the Barcelona open tennis in Barcelona, Spain, Wednesday, April 23, 2014.

Associated Press

Ferrer netted to give his opponent a triple set-point opportunity to close out the first frame, which Gabashvili did by smashing a crosscourt forehand Ferrer couldn't handle. Gabashvili maintained his play from the start of the second set to race to 3-0 when Ferrer skied his return high and into the crowd. Ferrer, who lost at this same stage last season to Dmitry Tursunov,

slapped a crosscourt forehand long for Gabashvili to clinch it. "Three weeks ago I lost to Ferrer in Miami but I dominated that first set. Today, I wanted to maintain my energy and keep it going, which I did for (90) minutes, but any more and it might have been tougher to win," Gabashvili said after winning for the first time on the third try against Ferrer. □

## Valverde wins Walloon Arrow Classic for 2nd time

RAF CASERT

AP Sports Writer

BRUSSELS (AP) — Alejandro Valverde of Spain timed his climb on the closing Wall of Huy to perfection to win the Walloon Arrow classic ahead of Daniel Martin of Ireland and Michal Kwiatkowski of Poland on Wednesday.

Pre-race favorite Philippe Gilbert, who won the last two classics over the past eight days, never got among the leaders on the mile-long (1,600-meter) climb to the finish line and ended up in 10th place.

The major spring classics end with Sunday's 100th Liege-Bastogne-Liege race, and Valverde put himself among the favorites since it is run over similar hilly terrain in southern Belgium.

After his biggest one-day victory in six years, Valverde said, "I will be most relaxed."

As before, the 199-kilometer (123-mile) classic

through woods and hills was reduced to the key question: Who is fastest on the final climb on the viciously steep Wall of Huy? Valverde won in 4 ½ hours, and his final kick gave him an edge of three seconds over Martin, last year's winner of Liege-Bastogne-Liege.

Even though he long felt boxed in, Valverde said that "as soon as I found a way through, I started sprinting."

His power gave him enough time to cross the line coasting with his arms outstretched.

Kwiatkowski was a further second back, finishing in the same time as Bauke Mollema of the Netherlands.

Valverde kept quiet in the pack for most of the race as Gilbert's BMC Racing Team chased down the early breakaways, and all favorites were bunched together with 12 kilometers to

# Kvitova beaten in 1st major upset at Stuttgart

STUTTGART, Germany (AP)

— Alisa Kleybanova defeated third-seeded Petra Kvitova 6-2, 7-6 (3) to provide the first major upset at the Porsche Grand Prix on Wednesday.

The 102nd-ranked Kleybanova rallied from 5-3 down in the second set to beat her Czech opponent. It was the Russian's first victory against a top-10 player since winning her battle against Hodgkin's lymphoma, which kept her out between May 2011 and March 2012.

The sixth-ranked Kvitova had been given a bye to the second round and was playing her first match since inspiring the Czech Republic to the Fed Cup final last weekend.

Earlier, Ana Ivanovic defeated Sabine Lisicki 6-1, 6-3 to send the Wimbledon finalist out in the first round.

Ivanovic, the world No. 12 and former French Open winner, needed just one hour to beat the 24-year-old Berliner.

Italy's Flavia Pennetta fired 10 aces to none in her 7-5, 3-6, 6-1 win over wild card Andrea Petkovic. It left four of the six home players out of the most important German women's competition at the first hurdle.

Pennetta will face the fifth-seeded Jelena Jankovic in the second round, with the winner then playing Kleybanova in the quarterfinals. Wild card Julia Goerges gave the supporters reason for cheer with a surprise 6-1, 7-5 win over Romania's Sorana Cirstea. The 94th-ranked German will next face Ivanovic on Thursday.

Italy's Sara Errani booked her quarterfinal place by defeating Kaia Kanepi of Estonia 6-3, 6-3. □



Spain's Alejandro Valverde of the Movistar team celebrates as he wins the Belgian cycling classic Walloon Arrow/Fleche Wallonne, in Huy, Belgium, Wednesday, April 23, 2014.

Associated Press

go. At its steepest, the Wall is 17 percent, but with an average of 9.3 percent it still calls for the special combined skills of explosiveness and endurance.

And Valverde found that groove again, just days short of his 34th birthday. Valverde was banned for two years from January 2010 after being implicat-

ed in Operation Puerto, a blood-doping scandal in Spain involving more than 50 riders.

Now with the Movistar Team, he is enjoying a renaissance, already winning five races this season.

He achieved the Walloon Arrow-Liege-Bastogne-Liege double in 2006, and Liege-Bastogne-Liege on its own in 2008. □



# Tech Tips: Add 2nd layer of protection online

ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — If the Heartbleed security threat teaches us anything, it's that passwords don't offer total protection.

Browsers are supposed to keep passwords and other sensitive data safe, but a technical flaw in a widely used padlock security technology allows hackers to grab the information anyway. Even without this latest discovery, there have been countless disclosures of hackers breaking in to grab usernames and passwords, plus credit card numbers and more.

That's why many security experts recommend a second layer of authentication — typically in the form of a numeric code sent as a text message. If you're logging in to a website from your laptop, for example, you enter your password first. Then you type in the code you receive via text to verify that it's really you and not a hacker.

I've been using what's known as two-factor authentication or two-step verification on most of my accounts for more than a year, after seeing too many mysterious attempts to reset my Facebook password by someone who isn't me. The main exception was Gmail, but I enabled that recently after the discovery of Heartbleed. I was afraid the second authentication would

be a pain to use, but things are going more smoothly than I expected after the initial setup.

The idea behind these double-layer passwords is to make it harder to use a password that's compromised or guessed. You're asked for a second piece of information that only you are supposed to know. To balance security and convenience, you can typically bypass this check the next time you use the same Web browser or device. It won't help if someone steals your laptop, but it'll prevent others from using your password on their machines. If you're logging in at a library or other public computer, remember to reject the option to bypass that check next time.

The second piece of authentication could be your fingerprint or retina scan, though such biometric IDs are rarely used for consumer services. Financial services typically ask for a security question, such as the name of your childhood pet, the first time you use a particular Web browser or device. That's better than nothing, though answers can sometimes be guessed or looked up. Some banks offer verification codes by text messaging, too.

I like that approach and use it for a variety of email and social networking services. To me, email accounts are the most sensi-

tive because email can be used to reset passwords elsewhere. That includes my banks and shopping sites.

The two-step requirement is fairly simple to turn on. With Google, for instance, it's under the Security tab in your account settings. On Facebook, look for Login Approvals under Security in the settings. With Apple IDs, visit [appleid.apple.com](http://appleid.apple.com) rather than the account settings on iTunes. After you enable it, you'll typically have to sign in to your account again on various Web browsers and devices. After entering your username and password, a code will get sent to your phone. You'll have to enter that to finish signing in. This has occasionally meant getting off my couch to grab my phone from the charger, but that's a small price for security.

What if you're somewhere without cellular access and can't receive texts? Most services have backup mechanisms. Google, Facebook and Microsoft have apps that will let you receive verification codes even when you're offline. Google and Facebook also let you generate 10 backup codes that you can download or print to keep in your wallet. Each can be used only once.

You can also turn off the two-step requirement temporarily if you'll be travel-

ing without cellular access, though I don't recommend it. The reason I turned it on last year was because I was leaving the country and wouldn't be able to deal with further mysterious reset attempts. Occasionally, you'll run into an app that won't accept the text code. Apple's Mail app on iPhones, iPads and Mac computers

phone. There's a 12-character, hard-to-guess backup code you can use instead. But it's no security if you jot it down next to your main password.

The biggest problem, though, is losing your phone. Some services will let you provide a backup number, including a friend's cellphone or a landline phone. With



In this Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013 photo illustration, hands type on a computer keyboard in Los Angeles. Associated Press

is one. Microsoft's Outlook software is another. If that happens, you'll have to go to your service's settings to generate a temporary password for that particular app. It's a pain, but I've rarely needed to do this.

There are several other challenges to making this work smoothly. For example, if you have a shared Twitter account, such as for your company or organization, two-step verification isn't very practical unless you also share your

Google, the code can be sent as a voice message instead of a text. Others offer a complex recovery code, which you'll have to jot down and keep in a safe place.

I know two-layer security is inconvenient. The first password is difficult enough to deal with. But think of the inconvenience involved should someone break into your account and shut you out. Consider the use of verification texts to be insurance. □

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# Wall Street edges lower after a six-day rise

**KEN SWEET**

**AP Markets Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Stocks edged mostly lower Wednesday, breaking a six-day winning streak, as investors were disappointed by the latest round of earnings from U.S. companies.

A surprise drop in new home sales also weighed on the broader market.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 4.16 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,875.39. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 12.72 points, or 0.1 percent, to 16,501.65 and the Nasdaq composite fell 34.49 points, or 0.8 percent, to 4,126.97.

Since hitting a two-month low on April 11, the index had increased 3.5 percent through Tuesday. It is not unusual for the stock market to pause after such a rally.

"The market, even with those six days of gains, is still struggling to choose a direction," said Joseph Tanious, a global market strategist with J.P. Morgan Funds. High-flying biotechnology

and Internet stocks were among the hardest hit.

Surgical robot maker Intuitive Surgical fell the most in the S&P 500, plunging \$48.40, or 12 percent, to \$373.93. The company reported a 77 percent drop in first-quarter earnings and sold half as many robots as it did in the same period a year earlier. The company warned two weeks ago that earnings would come in far below expectations, causing its stock to fall sharply from a recent high of \$540.63 reached April 3. Amgen fell 5 percent after it also reported a steep drop in quarterly earnings, missing analysts' expectations.

One bright spot in biotechnology was Gilead Sciences. The drugmaker rose \$1, or 1.4 percent, to \$73.86 after the company reported a surge in first-quarter earnings. Gilead's drug Sovaldi, a new treatment for Hepatitis C, had \$2.3 billion in sales in the first quarter alone, which beat the record for any drug in its first whole year on the market.



**Traders Daniel Leporin, left, and Michael Urkonis work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, April 23, 2014. The stock market slipped Wednesday after rallying for six straight days as investors worked through another round of quarterly earnings reports from U.S. companies.**

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

While Sovaldi has a 90 percent success rate in curing Hepatitis C, the drug has a price of \$1,000 per pill, or around \$84,000 for a typical course of treatment. AT&T, despite posting quarterly results that beat analysts' expectations, wasn't

able to impress investors this quarter. The Dow member's shares fell \$1.37, or 4 percent, to \$34.92. The company reported earnings of 71 cents a share, one cent ahead of analysts' expectations, and quarterly sales of \$32.48

billion, which also beat expectations.

Other telecom stocks also fell. Verizon fell 49 cents, or 1 percent, to \$47.43 while T-Mobile US lost \$1.28, or 3.8 percent, to \$29.81.

Airline stocks were among the biggest advancers.

Delta Air Lines rose \$2.14, or 6 percent, to \$37.09. Delta's first-quarter earnings climbed after the company filled more seats on planes and paid less for fuel. Delta was the biggest gainer in the S&P 500.

Plane maker Boeing rose \$3.08, or 2.4 percent, to \$130.63. Its quarterly earnings beat expectations as its commercial jet production increased.

U.S. company earnings have been generally coming in better than what investors had expected. But expectations are low this quarter, investors said, because the harsh winter earlier this year slowed business activity across the country. Earnings in the S&P 500 are expected to be down 1.5 percent from a year ago, according to FactSet.

"When you set the bar so low, U.S. companies are able to walk right over them," Tanious said.

In other company news: — Apple jumped \$43.91, or 8 percent, to \$568.43 in after-hours trading. □

## Buffett disapproves of Coca-Cola's pay plan

**CANDICE CHOI**

**JOSH FUNK**

**AP Business Writers**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Warren Buffett says he disapproves of Coca-Cola's highly contested pay plan for its executives.

Buffett, whose company is the beverage maker's largest shareholder, called the plan "excessive" in an interview on CNBC after it was approved at the company's annual meeting. But he said Berkshire Hathaway abstained from voting against the pay plan because he didn't want to express disapproval of the company's management. Buffett also noted during the interview how difficult it can be to sit on company boards and oppose a pay plan. His son, Howard Buffett, serves on Coke's board and supported the pay plan. Buffett said that he has never heard anyone speak out against a compensation com-

mittee's plan in 55 years of serving on company boards.

"Taking them on is a little bit like belching at the din-

ner table. You can't do it too often," Buffett said. He added that he's voted in favor of compensation plans he hasn't agreed

with in the past.

Coca-Cola Co.'s pay plan came under scrutiny after Wintergreen Advisers took public issue with it last month. Wintergreen chief executive David Winters said the plan was a "raw deal" for shareholders that would transfer roughly \$13 billion to management over the next four years. He urged Buffett to vote against the plan. Buffett has long been a critic of excessive executive compensation. Berkshire Hathaway does not award stock options to Buffett or any other executive, and Buffett himself receives a salary of \$100,000. "Too often, executive compensation in the U.S. is ridiculously out of line with performance," Buffett wrote in his letter to shareholders in 2005. "That won't change, moreover, because the deck is stacked against investors when it comes to the CEO's pay." □



**Berkshire Hathaway CEO and Chairman Warren Buffett speaks during an interview in Omaha, Neb. Buffett says he disapproves of Coca-Cola's highly contested pay plan for its executives. Buffett, the beverage maker's largest shareholder, called the plan "excessive" in an interview on CNBC after it was approved at the company's annual meeting.**

(AP Photo/Nati Harnik)



## Zynga founder Pincus leaving operations role

**NEW YORK (AP)** — On-line game maker Zynga's founder Mark Pincus is stepping down as chief product officer, less than a year after he was replaced as the company's CEO, as the company's sales slide. Zynga went public in 2011 on the strength of games like "Farmville" and "Mafia Wars," which had enthusiastic Facebook followings. But then rival digital game makers invaded Facebook and more people migrated to other pastimes on smartphones. Zynga has been cutting jobs and posting losses.

The company is trying to shake things up. Don Matrick, who had been in charge of Microsoft's interactive entertainment division, replaced Pincus as CEO in July. Zynga agreed to buy NaturalMotion, the company behind the hit mobile games "CSR Racing" and "Clumsy Ninja," in January.

The company also announced several new executive hires on Wednesday. They include Alex Garden of Microsoft, who is now the president of Zynga Studios. Garden had been in charge of Xbox Live and Xbox Music, Video and Reading.

Including charges connected to job cuts and the closure of some data centers, Zynga said it lost \$61.2 million, or 7 cents per share, in the first quarter. A year ago it earned \$4.1 million and broke even on a per-share basis.

Zynga said it lost a penny per share if one-time items are excluded, matching analyst expectations.

And its revenue continued to decline, dropping 36 percent to \$168 million. Analysts had projected an even worse drop, to \$164.2 million, according to FactSet.

The company said it had 28 million daily users in the first quarter.

That's down by almost half from a year ago, but it represents growth of 1 million users compared with the fourth quarter. □

## Facebook 1Q results soar; official to step down

**BARBARA ORTUTAY**  
**AP Technology Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Facebook's earnings nearly tripled and revenue grew sharply in the first quarter, surpassing Wall Street's expectations thanks to an 82 percent increase in advertising revenue.

The world's biggest on-line social network said Wednesday that it earned \$642 million, or 25 cents per share, in the January-March quarter, up from \$219 million, or 9 cents per share, in the same period a year ago. Adjusted earnings, which exclude stock compensation expenses and other costs, were \$885 million, or 34 cents per share, in the latest quarter. Facebook's revenue was \$2.5 billion, up 71 percent from \$1.46 billion in the same period a year ago. Analysts, on average, were

expecting adjusted earnings of 24 cents per share on revenue of \$2.36 billion, according to a poll by FactSet.

Shares of Menlo Park, Calif.-based Facebook climbed \$1.63, or 2.7 percent, to \$62.99 in extended trading after the results came out. The stock had closed down \$1.67, or 2.7 percent, at \$61.36 amid a broader market decline.

There were 1.28 billion monthly Facebook users at the end of March, up 15 percent from a year earlier. The number of users who log in every day increased 21 percent to 802 million.

The number of Facebook users who log in at least once a month using mobile devices climbed 34 percent to surpass 1 billion for the first time. Daily mobile users were 609 million, up 43 percent from a

year ago. Advertising revenue totaled \$2.27 billion. Of this, mobile advertising accounted for \$1.34 billion, or 59 percent. That's a bigger share than in the fourth quarter of 2013, the first time mobile accounted for more than half of Facebook's ad revenue, at 53 percent.

Facebook also said its chief financial officer, David Ebersman, is leaving on June 1 after five years. He'll be replaced by David Wehner, currently vice president of corporate finance and business planning.

"David set us up to operate efficiently and make the long term investments we need, and built an incredibly strong team including Dave Wehner, our next CFO," CEO Mark Zuckerberg said in a statement.

Facebook's results came the same day the Federal

Trade Commission cleared its \$2 billion acquisition of Oculus VR, a maker of virtual reality goggles. The company also agreed to buy WhatsApp, a mobile messaging service, for \$19 billion during the first quarter. The company is largely using Facebook stock to make both purchases.

Facebook's valuation and the exorbitant price tags of the deals is raising questions among tech industry experts about whether the sector is in the midst of a bubble not seen since the turn of the century.

"I'm troubled by the astronomical valuations in tech," wrote Endpoint Technologies Associates analyst Roger Kay on Forbes.com this week. "Tech isn't separate from the rest of the economy. Inflation in tech bleeds into, pumps up, infuses other sectors." □

## Apple increases stock buyback, will split stock

**CUPERTINO, California (AP)**

— Apple plans to buy back an additional \$30 billion of its stock, raise its quarterly dividend by 8 percent and split its stock for the first time in nine years. The commitment announced Wednesday as part of Apple's fiscal second-quarter earnings report expands on the company's previous pledge to spend \$60 billion on stock buybacks by the end of next year. The company is now earmarking \$90 billion for buybacks during that time frame.

Apple Inc. also is raising its quarterly dividend to \$3.29 per share as part its effort to funnel more money to stockholders.

The company also will execute an unusual seven-for-one stock split in early June. The move will dramatically decrease the nominal value of Apple's stock, which closed Wednesday at \$524.75, though the total value of the company shouldn't change from the split. Apple's stock soared by nearly 8 percent in extended trading after the news came out.

The slowdown in revenue growth has prompted investors to wonder whether

the company has lost its innovative power since the death of Steve Jobs.

The results for the first three months of the year illustrated how Apple Inc. can

make in an entire year. Revenue climbed by 5 percent to \$45.6 billion.

The company's quarterly revenue growth has been stuck between 1 percent

Those worries have been compounded by the fierce competition that Apple faces in the mobile device market, particularly from Samsung Electronics Co.



**A woman using a phone walks past Apple's logo near its retail outlet in Beijing. Apple reported quarterly earnings on Wednesday, April 23, 2014.**

**(AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)**

afford to spend so much money on its own stock.

Apple's earnings rose 7 percent to \$10.2 billion, or \$11.62 per share, an amount that exceeds what most technology compa-

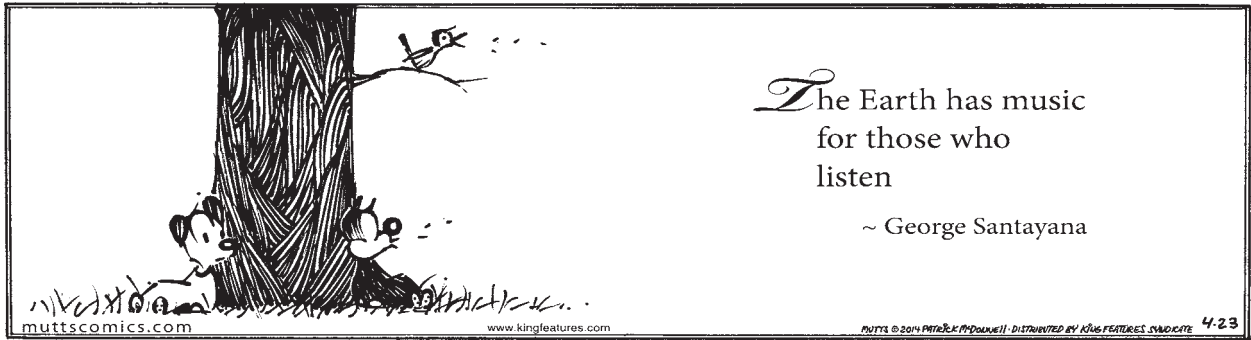
and 6 percent for the past year.

Investors have been worried about the future of Apple since Jobs, its co-founder and chief visionary, died in October 2011.

The company's stock price has been about 25 percent below its peak of \$705.07 reached 19 months ago. The shares rose to \$565.48 in Wednesday's extending trading. □



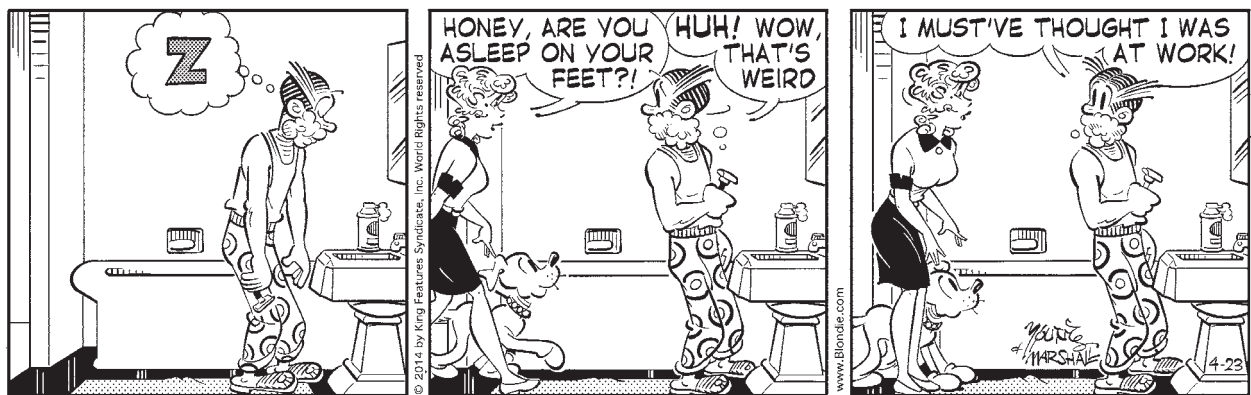
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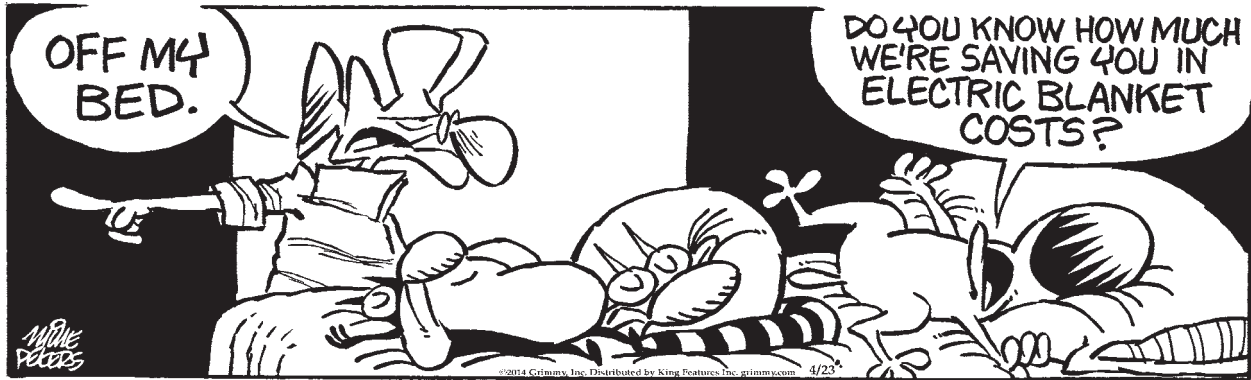
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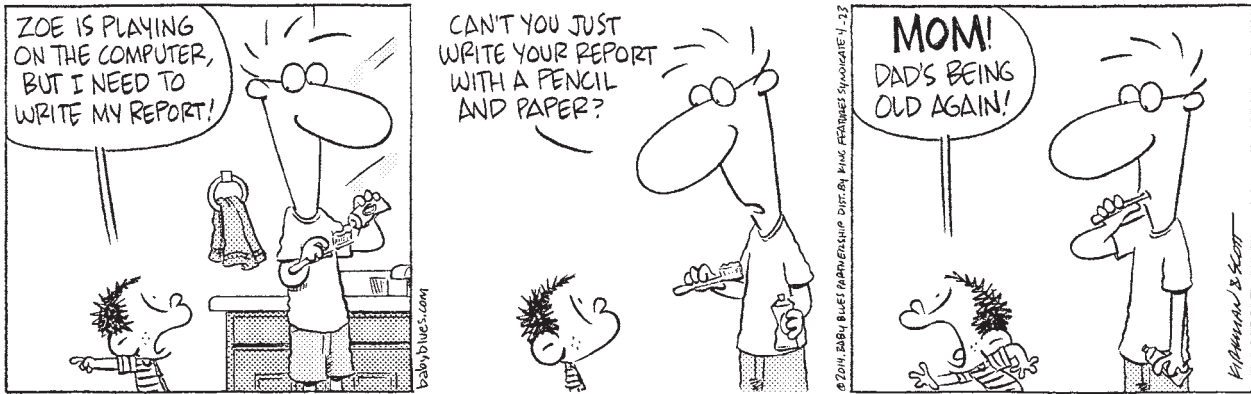
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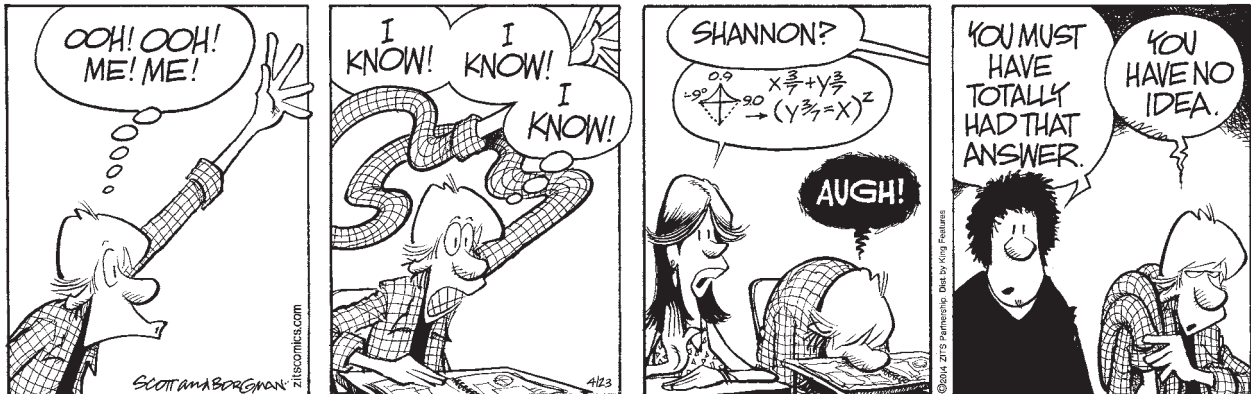
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

					6	2	9	8
	8	3		1			5	
	7		2			3		
		9			4			
	3				5			
1			8	6		7		
3		7			1		2	5
6	2					4	3	
5						9		

Difficulty Level ★★★

4/23

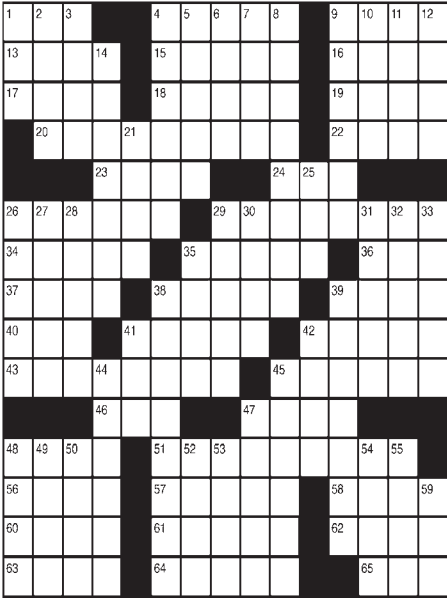
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	9	5	3	1	4	6	7	8
4	8	1	7	6	2	3	5	9
7	6	3	8	9	5	4	2	1
9	5	2	4	3	7	8	1	6
1	3	8	6	2	9	7	4	5
6	7	4	5	8	1	9	3	2
5	4	6	1	7	8	2	9	3
8	2	7	9	5	3	1	6	4
3	1	9	2	4	6	5	8	7

ACROSS

- Blood analysis site
- Shining
- Created
- Water jug
- Hidden supply of treasure
- Pick \_\_; become aware of
- Trait transmitter
- Records
- Take care of
- Monthly mailing from the bank
- Chopping tools
- Ameche and Knotts
- Pale
- Bedcover
- Breaks, as a glass dropped
- Bizarre
- "Been \_\_, done that"
- Floor cleaner's implement
- Skits
- Wined & dined
- Swimming spot
- Name after Fannie or Ginnie
- Unfriendly dog's noise
- Page of music?
- In a wild way
- Not boastful
- Egypt's boy king
- Fibbed
- 1/12 of a foot
- Singer Aguilera
- Smoothing tool
- Lift and throw with effort
- Agrees silently
- Caramel-topped custard
- Very willing
- Fixed stare
- Cravings
- Put clothes on
- Witch's curse
- DOWN
- Chicken piece



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/23/14

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

SCAN	PHASE	SKIM
HALE	LOVED	CAME
AREA	ALAND	ALPS
DESTINY	AIMLESS	
	EVE	STEAL
AMUSE	FOE	KOALA
PANT	POI	REPELS
ACT	FERROUS	RAT
RAIDER	EWET	TIME
TWEET	SEE	SHEAR
	FILES	PIE
UNAIDED	MIRAGES	
PAPA	GABON	TOGO
OPEN	ATILT	ERGO
NEXT	LEND	REST

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4/23/14

- Upholstery material
- Wildebeest
- Joyce Kilmer or Walt Whitman
- Greek capital
- Penny-pinchers
- it up; enjoys oneself
- Uncertain
- Longest river
- Extended family group
- Listen
- Become furious
- Ark builder
- Shaping tool
- Gender



## In net neutrality turnaround, FCC plans a fast lane

**WASHINGTON** - The Federal Communications Commission will propose rules that would allow Internet service providers to offer a faster lane through which to send video and other content to consumers, as long as a content company was willing to pay for it, according to people briefed on the proposals. The rules would mark a turnaround for the FCC on so-called net neutrality, the principle that Internet users should have equal ability to see any content they choose and that no content providers should be discriminated against in providing their offerings to consumers. The FCC's previous rules governing net neutrality were thrown out by a federal appeals court this year. The court said those rules had essentially treated Internet service providers as public utilities, violating a previous FCC ruling that Internet links were not to be governed by the same strict regulation as telephone or electric service. The new rules, according to the people briefed on them, would allow a company like Comcast or Verizon to negotiate separately with each content company - like Netflix, Amazon, Disney or Google - and charge different companies different amounts for priority service. That, of course, could increase costs for content companies, which would then have an incentive to pass on those costs to consumers.

Proponents of net neutrality have feared that such a framework would empower large, wealthy companies and prevent small startups that might otherwise be the next Twitter or Facebook, for example, from gaining traction in the market. The proposals, drafted by FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler and his staff, will be circulated to the other four commissioners beginning Thursday, an FCC spokeswoman said. □

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### Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

## Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002





# Tiny power plants hold promise for nuclear energy

**LORI HINNANT**  
**Associated Press**

**PARIS (AP)** — Small underground nuclear power plants that could be cheaper to build than their behemoth counterparts may herald the future for an energy industry under intense scrutiny since the Fukushima disaster, the incoming head of the Nuclear Energy Agency told The Associated Press.

Size is relative - the modular plants could be about as big as a couple of semi-trailers - easily fitting on the dimensions of coal plants they're ultimately intended to replace in the U.S. They would have factory-built parts that are slotted together like Lego blocks and hauled by train or truck - making assembly possible anywhere.

William Magwood, the incoming director of the Paris-based forum for nuclear energy countries, said the U.S. expects the first licensing applications to build one of the small, modular nuclear reactors in the second half of 2014, a key test to learn whether they can exist beyond the theoretical.

The Energy Department has sunk \$450 million into a multi-year effort to persuade companies that the technology can be developed profitably, but companies have been drifting away from the project, citing funding and regula-



In this photo taken on Monday, April 14, 2014, incoming Nuclear Energy Agency chief William Magwood gestures during an interview with The Associated Press, in Paris.

Associated Press

tory questions. It would be at least another six years before one could be built, Magwood said.

"Anything with nuclear takes a while, and that's appropriate when you're talking about a technology that has to be built correctly," Magwood said in an interview ahead of his formal introduction this week to his new post. "We haven't built one, so we don't know whether they're going to be financially successful."

Microsoft founder Bill Gates has offered enthusiastic support - and investment funds - for expanding nuclear technology he believes can provide affordable electricity to the world's poor and help combat climate change. But one of the most promising developers in the Energy Department effort, Babcock & Wilcox Co. owner

of mPower, this week announced plans to scale back spending, citing the need for "significant additional investors." The other company in the running is NuScale.

And safety fears could cause even communities hungry for new sources of power to hesitate, just three years after the meltdown at Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi plant. In the United States, the untested technology is competing with a shale gas boom that upended the market. A full-size reactor costs \$6 billion to \$8 billion and takes years to build - and decades to recoup the costs. It can produce enough to power more than 700,000 American homes, more than 10 times the output of its smaller counterpart.

"A small reactor ... can be built for a fraction of that cost," Magwood said, describing the proposed costs as about one-tenth of a smaller reactor. Companies pitching the projects say they could be built near population centers, but Magwood said that would need serious vetting. They have, he later cautioned, "a possibility that's not yet proven."

Gates is a major investor in the reactor development firm TerraPower, which is among a small number of U.S. companies trying to make major changes in nuclear power. The company, which primarily deals with large-scale reactors that would make and consume their own fuel, is also developing steel alloys that could apply to the modular technology.

"If you could make nuclear really, really safe, and deal with the economics, deal with waste, then it becomes the nirvana you want: a cheaper solution with very little CO2 emissions," Gates told Rolling Stone magazine in an interview last month.

Japan's nuclear plants have been closed since the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami damaged the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, causing meltdowns in three reactors. The disaster forced the evacuation of 100,000 residents in a 20-kilometer (12-mile) zone around the plant and prompted governments worldwide to rethink nuclear energy.

In the months that followed, Germany announced that it would phase out nuclear power by 2022 and construction plans were abandoned in several countries,

including Italy, Malaysia and the Philippines.

The idea of reactors spread out throughout a country - even smaller ones - strikes fear in the hearts of critics. After Fukushima, disaster plans that took years to put together were scrutinized with new urgency, leading to the realization that even neighboring countries might have very different ideas of what constitutes an emergency.

"A similar accident in Europe would involve several countries, and we are currently in a situation where our decision-making criteria are not the same, in terms of sheltering the population, evacuating, distributing iodine pills," said Pierre-Franck Chevet, president of France's Nuclear Safety Authority.

It's for that reason that Robert Rosner, a physicist at the University of Chicago's Energy Policy Institute, cautioned against seeing the new technology as the solution for the developing world. Rosner said the units are safer because they're protected underground against both internal accidents and external attacks, but the effects of nuclear meltdown are both far-ranging and long-lasting.

"The people that operate them have to know what they're doing and they have to mean it. They can't be complacent about safety and security," Rosner said. But the essence of the technology is there already, in the reactors that power U.S. nuclear subs, Rosner said.

France's nuclear plants produce about three-quarters of its energy needs, more than any country in the world. □

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# Courtney Cox makes directorial debut at Tribeca

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Courtney Cox's directorial debut is uniquely personal. It features a cameo from her daughter, Coco, songs by her boyfriend, Snow Patrol's Johnny McDaid, and a scene with her ex-husband, David Arquette. The film opens with 9-year-old Coco singing a song of McDaid's. Later, she briefly appears to spray her father, Arquette, with a hose. As a proud mother, it's Cox's favorite scene.

"I couldn't have cut that out," said Cox, who acknowledges their family dynamics are unusually friendly. "If I needed four seconds, that would be the last four seconds to go." Cox will premiere the film, "Just Before I Go," on Thursday at the Tribeca Film Festival. It's the first stab at feature-film directing for the 49-year-old TV star, who readied herself for the

opportunity by directing a short, a Lifetime movie and 10 episodes of her TBS sitcom "Cougar Town."

"Just Before I Go" stars Seann William Scott as a depressive who plans to commit suicide but first returns to his hometown to get "my house in order." He visits an old crush, a school bully from his youth and others to unload his pain in a strange kind of bucket-list mission. It may sound like a serious drama, but "Just Before I Go" (written by David Flebotte) has an offbeat humor that clashes comically with its heavy outline. Certainly, few movies have an emotional spectrum that incorporates both suicide and a "sleep masturbator" (a twist on sleep walking). "It's hard to get those subject matters to gel and for people to feel it's OK to laugh here and it's OK to cry there," Cox said in a recent interview. "If I can laugh really hard and then

cry, it's perfect for me."

"The more offensive the humor, the funnier it is to me," she added. "For whatever reason, if someone's not getting hurt, it's probably not funny to me."

Of course, Cox's comic timing has long been on display in "Friends," "Family Ties," "Dirt" (on which she met Flebotte) and "Cougar Town," which recently wrapped its fifth and possibly final season. (Its future is uncertain.)

But Cox didn't want to act in "Just Before I Go," but rather concentrated on directing — a role she says feels natural.

"I'm obsessed with design and I really feel like I suffer from acute awareness," said Cox. "I'm always so aware of my surroundings. I'm so interested in the way people live. Whenever I walk in someplace, I can almost tell you what the rooms looked like before I could tell you a person's



This March 21, 2014 file photo shows actress Courtney Cox at the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability's An Evening of Environmental Excellence in Beverly Hills, Calif. Associated Press

name."

Shot in a speedy 23 days in between seasons of "Cougar Town," "Just Before I Go" was made for less than \$2 million, which Cox initially financed herself. She's

hoping to land distribution at Tribeca.

"Not having the pressure of the studio, just doing it for myself," said Cox, "it was the perfect way in for me." □

## Andrew Gross asks tough questions in new novel

JEFF AYERS

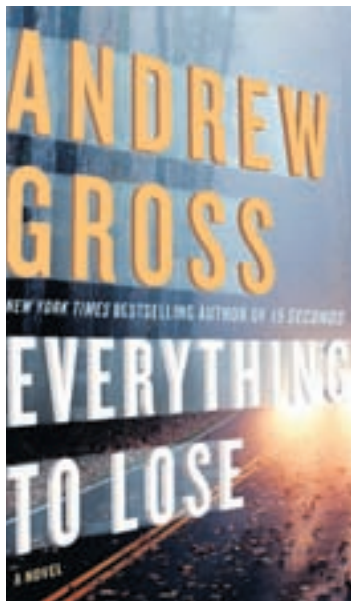
Associated Press

How far would you go to protect your loved ones? What if keeping your special needs child in an expensive, properly caring environment meant having to break the law? Would you do it?

Author Andrew Gross forces readers to grapple with the extremes one must go through to survive in such a situation in his new novel, "Everything to Lose."

Hilary Cantor is divorced, and her deadbeat husband doesn't pay his child support. Their son, Brandon, is autistic, and the school he attends is very expensive. Hilary becomes desperate after she loses her job. How will she pay for her child's schooling?

She witnesses a car crash while driving home one afternoon. The car slides down a ravine. Hilary



This book cover image released by William Morrow shows "Everything to Lose," by Andrew Gross.

Associated Press

climbs and scratches her way to the car, where she discovers a dead man and a satchel filled with money. She tosses the bag into a bush and leaves. □

## Jodie Foster weds artist Alexandra Hedison



In this Aug. 7, 2013 file photo, Jodie Foster arrives at the world premiere of "Elysium" at the Regency Village Theater, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Jodie Foster is a married woman. The 51-year-old Oscar winner wed girlfriend Alexandra Hedison over the weekend, Foster's publicist confirmed Wednesday. Jennifer Allen offered no other details.

E! was the first to report that Foster tied the knot with Hedison, a 44-year-old photographer based in Los Angeles.

It's the first marriage for Foster, who came out publicly in a rambling, heartfelt speech at the 2013 Golden Globe Awards, where she accepted lifetime achievement honors. After saying she planned to make a big announcement that would make her publicist nervous, Foster jokingly revealed that she was single.

"I hope that you're not

disappointed that there won't be a big coming-out speech tonight," she said, "because I already did my coming-out about a thousand years ago back in the Stone Age."

She said celebrities are now expected to reveal they're gay "with a press conference, a fragrance and a prime-time reality show," but her approach had been more personal.

Foster acknowledged longtime partner Cydney Bernard, with whom she has two sons. The couple ended their 20-year relationship in 2008. While Foster never hid the relationship, she kept her sexuality private until the Globes speech.

E! says Foster and Hedison have been dating since last summer.

Hedison, who was previously linked to Ellen DeGeneres, is also an actress with TV credits including "Nash Bridges" and "The L Word." □



# Lupita Nyong'o named People's Most Beautiful'



This image provided by People magazine shows the cover of its special "World's Most Beautiful" issue, featuring Lupita Nyong'o.  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — People magazine has named Lupita Nyong'o as the "World's Most Beautiful" for 2014. The 31-year-old actress, who won a best supporting actress Oscar for her role in "12 Years a Slave," tops the magazine's list, an-

nounced Wednesday. Commenting on being selected for this year's cover, Nyong'o says: "It was exciting and just a major, major compliment. I was happy for all the girls who would see me on it and feel a little more seen." □

## Sony developing live-action Barbie comedy

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Barbie is coming alive. Sony Pictures, Mattel and Parkes+MacDonald/Image Nation have partnered to create a live-action movie focused on the iconic doll. The companies said Wednesday the comedy will be written by Jenny Bicks ("What a Girl Wants") and produced by hus-

band-and-wife team Walter F. Parkes and Laurie MacDonald ("Men in Black 3"). Executive producers will be Parkes+MacDonald president Marc Resteghini and Julia Pistor for Mattel's Playground Productions. Sony sees the film as a global franchise and plans to go into production by the end of the year. □

# Shakespeare's Globe taking 'Hamlet' to 200 nations



Actors perform a scene from William Shakespeare's Hamlet for members of the media during a photo call to present Hamlet at Shakespeare's Globe theatre, London, Wednesday, April 23, 2014.

Associated Press

**JILL LAWLESS**  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Four centuries after his death, William Shakespeare is probably Britain's best-known export, his words and characters famous around the world. It's fitting they were first staged at a playhouse called the Globe. Now the modern-day Shakespeare's Globe theater in London is setting out to test the Bard's maxim that "all the world's a stage" by taking "Hamlet" to every country on Earth, more than 200 in all. The company describes the plan as "insanely ambitious." Some suspect it's impossible, and Amnesty International has weighed in to point out the "dark irony" of taking a play about power and regicide to authoritarian North Korea. "Hamlet" opens Wednesday — on Shakespeare's 450th birthday — with the first of three performances at the Globe, a reconstructed Elizabethan play-

house beside the River Thames. Then the cast of 12 and its four-person crew will board a schooner for Amsterdam, beginning a journey that will take them to seven continents by plane, boat, train, bus and jeep. Globe artistic director Dominic Dromgoole reeled off the first tour stops with an excited grin: "Amsterdam, Wittenberg, Arctic Circle — Tromso — drop down through Scandinavia, go to Moscow, go to Kiev the night before the election." The tour is scheduled to last two years, finishing back at the Globe on April 23, 2016 — the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. The itinerary is still a work in progress, but Ladi Emeruwa, one of two actors playing the lead role, said his schedule is blocked out through January, with performances across Europe followed by tours of North, Central and South America and the Caribbean.

"It feels like I've won the lottery," said Nigeria-born Emeruwa, who trained at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. "Both are things I've always wanted to do — perform for this company and travel." The tour's initial goal of visiting 205 nations and territories may vary, and exactly what constitutes a country is in some cases contested. The United Nations has 193 member states, while there were 204 teams in the London Olympics. Dromgoole remains undaunted, though unspecific, when asked about war-devastated Syria or insular North Korea — both now listed on the tour's website as "details to be confirmed." "Every country means every country," he said. "It's not easy to get into every country, for a variety of reasons. But we're quite persistent." Amnesty International last month appeared to caution the troupe against visiting North Korea, a country where "the horrors inflicted on people who fall out of favor are worse than any fiction." Amnesty spokeswoman Harriet Garland said Wednesday the group was not advocating a boycott, but felt the Globe "should be aware of what the situation is if they want to go to North Korea." Dromgoole said the tour's aim was "to take culture to every country, to all the peoples of the world." He is confident "Hamlet" — the tragedy of a prince torn between indecision and revenge — will speak to audiences in many different cultures and political systems. "It's about somebody who is troubled by a sense of a new modernity within an age that doesn't understand him," Dromgoole said. "And I think in many different places and many different political situations and many different historical moments, the play will still be eloquent." □



## Sweden Turns Japanese



**PAUL KRUGMAN**  
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Three years ago Sweden was widely regarded as a role model in how to deal with a global crisis. The nation's exports were hit hard by slumping world trade but snapped back; its well-regulated banks rode out the financial storm; its strong social insurance programs supported consumer demand; and unlike much of Europe, it still had its own currency, giving it much-needed flexibility. By mid-2010 output was surging, and unemployment was falling fast. Sweden, declared *The Washington Post*, was "the rock star of the recovery."

Then the sadomonetarists moved in.

The story so far: In 2010 Sweden's economy was doing much better than those of most other advanced countries.

But unemployment was still high, and inflation was low. Nonetheless, the Riksbank - Sweden's equivalent of the Federal Reserve - decided to start raising interest rates.

There was some dissent within the Riksbank over this decision. Lars Svensson, a deputy governor at the time - and a former Princeton colleague of mine - vociferously opposed the rate hikes. Svensson, one of the world's leading experts on Japanese-style deflationary traps, warned that raising interest rates in a still-depressed economy put Sweden at risk of a similar outcome. But he found himself isolated, and left the Riksbank in 2013.

Sure enough, Swedish unemployment stopped falling soon after the rate hikes began. Deflation took a little longer, but it eventually arrived. The rock star of the recovery has turned itself into Japan.

So why did the Riksbank make such a terrible mistake? That's a hard question to answer, because officials changed their story over time. At first the bank's governor declared that it was all about heading off inflation: "If the interest rate isn't raised now, we'll run the risk of too much inflation further ahead ... Our most important task is to ensure that we meet our inflation target of 2 percent." But as inflation slid toward zero, falling ever further below that supposedly crucial target, the Riksbank offered a new rationale: tight money was about curbing a housing bubble, to avert financial instability.

That is, as the situation changed, officials invented

new rationales for an unchanging policy.

In short, this was a classic case of sadomonetarism in action. I'm using that term (coined by William Keegan of *The Observer*) advisedly, not just to be colorful. At least as I define it, sadomonetarism is an attitude, common among monetary officials and commentators, that involves a visceral dislike for low interest rates and easy money, even when unemployment is high and inflation is low. You find many sadomonetarists at international organizations; in the United States they tend to dwell on Wall Street or in right-leaning economics departments. They don't, I'm happy to say, exert much influence at the Federal Reserve - but they do constantly harass the Fed, demanding that it stop its efforts to boost employment.

And when I say that the dislike for low rates is visceral, I mean just that. While sadomonetarists may offer what sound like coherent analytical rationales for their policy views, they don't change their policy views in response to changing conditions - they just invent new rationales. This strongly suggests that what we're looking at here is a gut feeling rather than a thought-out position.

Indeed, the Riksbank's evolving justifications for rate hikes were mirrored at international organizations like the Switzerland-based Bank for International Settlements, an influential bankers' bank that is a sadomonetarist stronghold. Just like the Riksbank, the bank changed its rationale for rate hikes - It's about inflation! It's about financial stability! - but never its policy demands.

Where does this gut dislike for low rates come from? At some level it has to reflect an instinctive identification with the interests of wealthy creditors as opposed to usually poorer debtors.

But it's also driven, I believe, by the desire of many monetary officials to pose as serious, tough-minded people - and to demonstrate how tough they are by inflicting pain.

Whatever their motives, sadomonetarists have done a lot of damage.

In Sweden they have extracted defeat from the jaws of victory, turning an economic success story into a tale of stagnation and deflation as far as the eye can see.

And they could do much more damage in the future. Financial markets have been fairly calm lately - no big banking crises, no imminent threats of euro breakup. But it would be wrong and dangerous to assume that recovery is assured: Bad policies could all too easily undermine our still-sluggish economic progress. So when serious-sounding men in dark suits tell you that it's time to stop all this easy money and raise rates, beware: Look at what such people have done to Sweden. □



## The Real Port Authority Scandal



**JOE NOCERA**  
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This is a column about the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, but you won't read a word in here about the lane-closing scandal in Fort Lee, N.J. This is about another scandal, one that has been going for on so long that people don't even think of it as scandalous. Indeed, it involves no illegality whatsoever. But that doesn't mean it isn't a scandal.

The Port Authority is supposed to manage - and improve - important parts of the transportation infrastructure of New York and New Jersey: airports like John F. Kennedy Airport, bridges like the George Washington Bridge, and terminals like the Port Authority Bus Terminal.

And, in fact, all of these need improving, especially the bus terminal, which is 64 years old and thoroughly outmoded. The steep \$13 toll that drivers pay to cross the George Washington Bridge, for instance, is supposed to help pay for infrastructure improvements.

For decades, however, at least some of that money has been diverted to real estate - specifically, the World Trade Center, which the Port Authority originally built in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and then subsidized for the next several decades, as the

twin towers languished under its stewardship.

It finally exited the business in the summer of 2001, by signing a 99-year lease with Larry Silverstein, the developer. Which, of course, was only weeks before the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11.

Since then, the Port Authority has dived back into real estate, pouring at least \$7.7 billion rebuilding the area around ground zero. Some of that money went for the 9/11 memorial and museum. But some \$4 billion went to an over-the-top transit station. And another \$3.3 billion has gone to build One World Trade Center - which used to be known as Freedom Tower, and, at a symbolic 1,776 feet high, is now the tallest building in the country.

Whether or not building commercial skyscrapers was the right way to rebuild ground zero, what can be said for sure is that the Port Authority has shown, yet again, that it doesn't belong in the real estate business. One World Trade Center is the most expensive high-rise building ever built in America, and it is costing the Port Authority a fortune. Only 55 percent of its 2.6 million square feet has been leased, and most of that is at a significant loss. Meanwhile, 4 World Trade Center, which was developed by Silverstein, has only 60 percent of its space leased. As *The Wall Street Journal* pointed out recently, between the two buildings, there is more than 2.5 million square feet of unleased space at Ground Zero.

So why in the world would the Port Authority be willing to back another \$1.2 billion in loans to help Silverstein build 3 World Trade Center? Yet on Wednesday, that is exactly what the Port Authority board is supposed to vote on.

Silverstein needs the loan guarantee for a simple reason: The market is saying that, with all that empty office space, this is not the time to be building another sky-

scraper downtown. He has, so far, found one tenant, but banks are insisting that a higher percentage of the building be pre-leased before the construction of the building will get financing. So Silverstein has turned to the Port Authority instead to be his funder of last resort.

And not all that long ago, it would have been a safe bet that the Port Authority would have gone along. Indeed, the vice chairman of the board, Scott Rechler - a realtor himself - has said that "it's part of our mission to finish it." But this time, somebody on the board has finally stood up and said, "Enough."

That person is Kenneth Lipper, an investment banker and a former deputy mayor of New York, who was appointed to the Port Authority board last year by Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York.

"There is simply no reason for the Port Authority to step in," he told me on Monday.

The private sector is appropriately saying, "Not now." But he also had another objection, one that heralds back to the original purpose of the Port Authority. "Our role is to develop the transportation infrastructure of this region. We have more infrastructure needs than we can finance through our revenue base.

As a result, we are triaging necessary transportation improvements to finance what will be an empty building."

Always in the past, the commissioners have voted unanimously to approve ventures like the Silverstein deal; it was the way things worked at the Port Authority.

That's one reason these expenditures have seemed less outrageous than they really are: there was no opposition. This time, however, there is going to be an actual debate. And if, after that, Silverstein gets his loan guarantees, well, there will finally be no doubt that a scandal has taken place. □



# Sightseeing With Ears

**CORINNA WOLLHEIM**

© 2014 New York Times

Have you planned your summer vacation yet? Any thoughts as to what places you'd like to hear this year? Oh, right. We do not travel with our ears. The bucket lists we are so fond of - those 1,000 Places to See Before You Die - all focus on the visual.

A pity, according to British acoustic engineer Trevor Cox. In "The Sound Book: The Science of the Sonic Wonders of the World" (W.W. Norton & Co.), he argues that you could work your way through all 1,000 items on such a list and still miss out on some of the world's great marvels.

Instead, he lets his ears guide him on an adventure to track down quirky, extreme and historically venerated phenomena of our sonic universe. In the process, he makes a lucid and passionate case for a more mindful way of listening to and engaging with musical, natural and man-made sounds.

Not every reader will want to follow Cox as he splashes around a Victorian sewer, noting how the sound of his speech spins around the inside of the curved walls "like a motorcyclist per-

forming in a Wall of Death."

Nor will they be able to squeeze through a pipe, as he does, into an abandoned storage tank deep inside a Scottish hillside that once held 7 million gallons of shipping oil. With 75 seconds of broadband reverberation time, the tank has entered the Guinness book of records as the world's most reverberant space.

But you do not need to be an acoustic engineer armed with a stun gun and sophisticated measuring tools to be awed by the singing sands of the Kelso Dunes in the Californian Mojave Desert (caused by an avalanche of very dry sand down a steep slope) or by the cascading roar of the sea inside Fingal's Cave in Scotland, which inspired Mendelssohn to compose his "Hebrides" overture.

Anyone who has ever clapped, hollered or yodeled at an echo will delight in the zestful curiosity with which Cox appraises and sometimes debunks echoing marvels described by 17th-century polymaths Marin Mersenne and Athanasius Kircher, or in many a 19th-century guidebook.

Cox also plays with, and explains, the acoustics of whispering galleries like



**Big Ben in London. The clock, known for its chimes, is one of the many places mentioned in Trevor Cox's "The Sound Book," a book about the extreme and historically venerated phenomena of our sonic universe.**

(Andrew Testa/The New York Times)

that of St. Paul's Cathedral in London or the one by the Oyster Bar in Grand Central Terminal, in which sound is guided along the tiled archway.

He mourns the loss of the ceiling echo in the Capitol in Washington, which, before a bout of renovation in the 19th century, created a whispering dome that was once a great draw for tourists - and an occasional source of embarrassment for politicians.

"The orator who was not

cautious enough to remain in one spot during the delivery of his address found the acoustics of the hall taking strange liberties with his elocution," according to The Lewiston Daily Sun, of Maine, in 1893, "transforming his crescendo sentences into comical squeals, or causing his pianissimo phrases, his stage whispers, to shriek and wail as he moved to and fro." Cox steers a cautious course between wide-eyed wonder and sober science. What's sure, he writes, is that "to overlook sound is to render the story of ancient monuments incomplete."

Musically inclined readers scanning Cox's book for discussions of concert hall acoustics and the sound properties of instruments may be disappointed to find relatively little that is new or surprising: Sure, organ works like Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor are written to make maximum use of church acoustics.

But it's much more fun to follow Cox as he calculates what Bach's work would sound like on Mars: The thin, cold atmosphere would move sound at two-thirds the speed it moves on Earth, transposing the Toccata to roughly G sharp minor.

By the same logic, Mars would turn tenors into

"Barry White sound-alikes."

But on Venus, with its very dense atmosphere that would simultaneously lower the pitch and increase the resonances of mouth and throat, "the astronaut's voice would sound squeaky," Cox writes - "like a bass Smurf," he quotes Tim Leighton of the University of Southampton.

But the most lasting effect of Cox's book is a gentle reminder to pay attention to - and value - everyday sounds. For our prehistoric ancestors, a finely tuned sense of hearing was a key tool for ensuring survival. A sudden pause in birdsong could signal a threat.

Now many of us live in cities that are so loud that the birds have adapted their song, and too many of us shut out the sound world altogether with earbuds and headphones. And yet, Cox argues, sounds powerfully enrich our sense of time and place, whether they are the chimes of Big Ben, the warbled platform announcement at a foreign train station or the tinkling of an ice cream truck in summer.

Try to imagine that bucket list of travel destinations with your eyes closed. Imagine the muezzin's call to prayer in Cairo, the sputter of Vespas on an Italian piazza or the roar of Niagara Falls. What do you want to hear this year? □



**Patrons at the Oyster Bar at Grand Central Terminal in New York. The bar, where sound is guided along tiled archways, is one of the many places mentioned in Trevor Cox's "The Sound Book."**

(Benjamin Norman/The New York Times)